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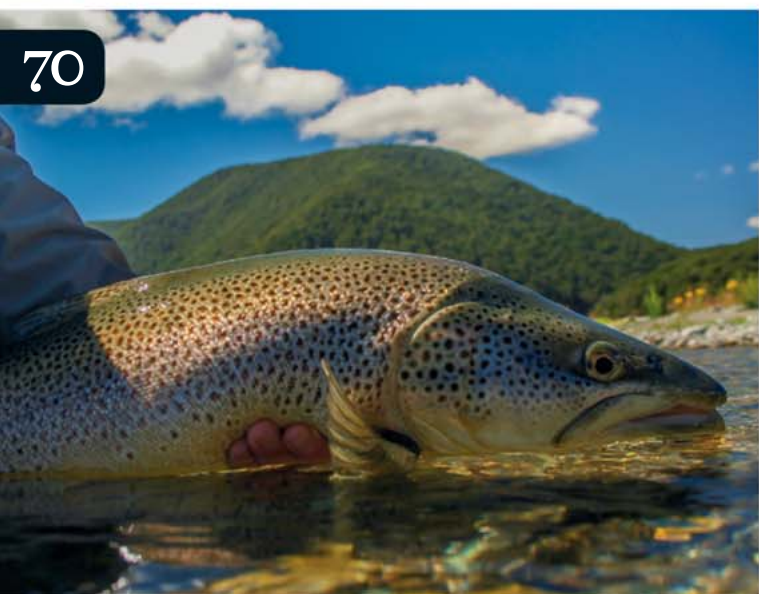
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SHIMANO TIDES

ON THE COVER

Hauraki snapper surrounded by a range of lures available at most tackle stores. See the story on page 16.



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Matt Watson,
host of the ITM
Fishing Show

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TIPS FOR FEBRUARY

Did you know the Editor's letter is least read page in almost every magazine printed? Yes, for all the effort and ego that goes into this single page, it seems regardless of the genre, its readers fairly uniformly *don't give a monkey's* what its chief has to say about a topic.

So, will I be the one who bucks the trend? Probably not, but what the heck, it's not like we can leave the page blank so I might as well have a crack.

Hi, my name is Jeff Strang and I am a fishing addict. It's been two torturous weeks since my last fish.

I am a lucky chap. My entire working career has been dedicated to fishing and boats, mostly as skipper of charter boats in Northland and around the Pacific, and more recently as editor of boating mags in Australia and New Zealand.

I remember reading and enjoying the very first edition *NZ Fishing World* and have admired it ever since. It is a privilege to sit in this seat.

Anyway, that's enough about me. It's time to talk about fishing in February.

So hot right now

Yep, February's pretty hot all right, and not just in a *mercury rising* way. Two styles of fishing, which sit at opposite ends of the angling spectrum, are at their very best this month.

If you are ever going to challenge yourself against the biggest, fastest, brutalist fish to haunt a fishos dreams then February is the month to do it in. No, you won't need a ratchet to know you've got a blue marlin on the hook but might need a broom to sweep up the pieces once its gone.

My tips for tackling these line-burning beasts is to plan around the calmest conditions possible and target the northern seamounts like Kari Kari's Garden Patch and the grounds wide of the Cavalli Islands. Alternatively, an expedition to Waihou Bay would be worth the effort.

As a rule, fish depths greater than 200-metres and focus on the food sources, rather than wandering the blue desert aimlessly. Blue marlin love yellowfin tuna, so if schools are about, stay with them. Large concentrations of skipjack

tuna are worth focusing on as well. My two favourite blue marlin lures are the pearl head Joe Yee Superplunger in blue and pink and the Zuker 5.5 in black and purple.

Another blue marlin opportunity worth exploring is the Bonze Marlin Skins tournament, where a blue brute larger than 350 kilograms is likely to be worth \$250,000. See page 25 for the details.

The other blue-ribbon opportunity on offer is the chance to tempt brown or rainbow trout on a dry fly. In aquatic terms a more apparent juxtaposition to the bull-run that is blue marlin fishing would be difficult to imagine.

About time you are reading this mag, fat cicadas will be falling out trees into the mouths of hungry trout. For a few brief sun-scorched weeks the dry-fly bite is on, before it returns to a tangle of bottom-fished nymphs. Most streams and rivers, which contain trout can be targeted but the very best dry fly fishing will be in the Nelson Lakes regions and in Southland's mighty Mataura.

So what do you reckon? Should I put a few tips for March in the next issue or just slap a pretty photo on this page instead? ☘



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PLACEMAKERS SNAPPER BONANZA 2015

The Far North's iconic 90 Mile Beach Surfcasting Competition has been running in one form or another for 30 years. However, it was a close call as to whether the 2015 Snapper Bonanza would take place with long-term sponsor Captain Morgan Rum unable to commit to naming rights. Last year's event attracted 740 anglers including an international contingent of 40, with one competitor travelling from Italy for the event.

Organisers John Stewart and Councillor Dave Collard say it's critical the event continues as it invigorates tourism and hospitality in Kaitia just as the season would normally be dying off. They are especially grateful to Summit Forestry and new naming rights sponsor PlaceMakers and say without their support, the event would not be happening. The pair is confident that interest in the event remains high and say pre-registration is better than previous years, something they suspect may be partly motivated by the

Earlybird Registration prize draw for a Kontiki Seahorse valued at \$4,400.

An impressive prize pool may also be helping to drive entries with an impressive \$76,000 in cash prizes up for grabs including \$30,000 for Heaviest Snapper and \$10,000 for Average Weight Snapper. There's over \$100,000 worth of spot prizes with the major draw card being the Mitsubishi Triton 4WD.

Last year Simon Job of Ngataki (north of Houhora) took home the ute and the Heaviest Snapper was won by Neil Sides of Kaitia.

WHAT
PlaceMakers Snapper
Bonanza 2015
WHEN
10th to 14th March
WHERE
90 Mile Beach, Northland
WEB
Snapperbonanza.co.nz



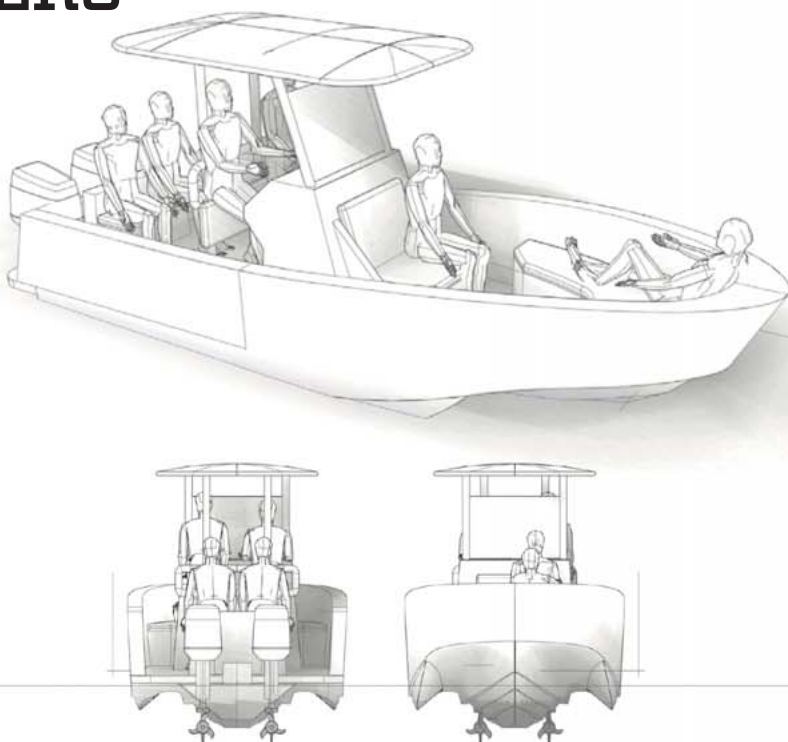
SEA BLADE TARGETS FISHERS

Sea Blade has announced its first production model, due out mid 2015. The hull is described as revolutionary, boasting characteristics designed to appeal to the comfortable cruiser or hi-tech fisher of the future.

The initial Sea Blade will be a 6.5m open layout boat has a shape that allows the beam to be carried well forward into a huge bow rider area, ideal for fishing.

With over US\$2 million invested in the hull design it will certainly be one to watch. When compared to a deep v hull (23 degree+) the design offers approximately 25% greater efficiency with a g-force loading 40% less than such a competitor. All the pounding and slamming of the past should be gone and replaced with smooth and a secure ride, no matter what direction the wind and waves.

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FISH4ALL ON ANDROID

Unveiled for iPhones earlier this year the *Fish4all* app is now available for android smartphones.

The free app has been developed to gather data to provide better information on where and how recreational fishing is occurring.

Fish4all investor and recreational fisher Tony Craig says for individual fishers the app is a perfect fishing diary and a way for fishers to share and compare catch details with their mates and fishing clubs.

For the recreational sector, data gathered from the app can be used

to enhance the overall picture of recreational interests in our precious resources, he says.

Gathering data on recreational fishers has generally sat in the technically difficult basket but with smartphone technology and a commitment by the recreational sector, the Fish4all team has found a solution that is fun and supports sustainable fisheries management.

Fishers are encouraged to give the app a go and to send in their feedback and suggestions to the Fish4all team.

To learn more or to download the app visit www.Fish4all.co.nz



RAYMARINE ON BOARD NEW SEA CLEANERS BOAT

A new vessel, specially designed for the Sea Cleaners Trust to clean up rubbish from Whangarei Harbour, will feature the latest Raymarine electronics, thanks to New Zealand Raymarine distributor, Lusty and Blundell Ltd.

Sea Cleaners Trust director Hayden Smith says the Raymarine electronics were chosen for the vessel

following a recommendation from highly respected marine electrical professional Warren Tait from EAL Electric, formerly Electrics Afloat Ltd.

“We have installed Raymarine electronics on many of our customers’ boats and they have always been very happy with how they worked and how easy it was to operate them,” he says. “We obviously had no hesitation in

recommending them to Sea Cleaners.”

The *Bobby Stafford-Bush* is the second boat in the Sea Cleaners’ fleet. The first, an 11-metre vessel, has been operating on the Waitemata Harbour for the last 12 years. In that time, it has collected over 3.5 million litres of rubbish, enough to fill 120 shipping containers.

For more information or to volunteer visit Seacleaners.com





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GROUND-BREAKING GATE PRIZE FOR HUTCHWILCO

Visitors to the 2015 Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show in Auckland next May will have two chances to win a revolutionary new carbon fibre Stabicraft/Yamaha Grand Prize Package.

Each of these amazing prize packages will feature a new model Stabicraft 1600, complete with a lightweight, resin-infused carbon fibre superstructure, a market-leading 70hp Yamaha F70 4-stroke outboard, a huge range of practical extras and will have a retail value of at least \$60,000.

These two Stabicraft prize boats — a new 1600 Fisher and a new 1600 Frontier — will be the first aluminium powerboats in New Zealand to feature carbon fibre in their construction.

“One of the key aspects of our design philosophy demands that every Stabicraft be instantly recognizable as such,” says Stabicraft managing director Paul Adams. “The Stabicraft 1600 Carbon

Series, with its uncompromisingly sharp contours is the essence of our brand, poured into an extreme, awe-inspiring look, which is eternally different, but unmistakably Stabicraft. We are pushing the boundaries of what has previously been considered ‘the norm’ in the marine industry.

Powering the 2015 Stabicraft/Yamaha Grand Prize Packages will be one of New Zealand’s most popular and best-loved outboards, the Yamaha F70 four-stroke.

“The F70 is a truly legendary outboard,” says Yamaha Motor NZ Ltd’s general manager Darryl Lovegrove. “It is one of the world’s very best and biggest-selling mid-range 4-stroke outboards. Its lightweight, flawless performance and outstanding fuel economy make it the perfect match for both of Stabicraft’s exciting new carbon fibre 1600s.”

The two Stabicraft/Yamaha Grand Prize Packages, which will be drawn shortly after the show closes at 6pm on May 17, 2015 and handed over to their new owners the following morning, will be presented ready for the water.

WHAT
The 60th Hutchwilco New Zealand Boat Show

WHERE
ASB Showgrounds,
Greenlane, Auckland

WHEN
May 14-17, 2015

WILL BE WON
Two Stabicraft/Yamaha
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WORTH
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Joe Bro

After a hard day on the salty puddle, the last thing any man wants to find on his favourite Hawaiian is part of today's catch. That's why I wear my ocean-apron every time. It keeps my head above water if I go in the drink and the fish chunks off the

mufti, so I can go direct from dock to d-floor, max fresh. So next time you head out on the big blue, slip it on and keep that good shirt crispy, cos' a stowed lifejacket ain't gonna save nothin'.

GET IT ON OR IT'S NO GOOD.

Which LURE?

LURE DESIGN CONTINUES TO CHANGE AND EVOLVE, AS DOES THE METHODOLOGY TO FISH THEM. NZFW ASKS THE QUESTIONS, WHAT MAKES LURES ATTRACTIVE TO FISH AND WHERE IS YOUR MONEY BEST SPENT?





SCOTT CUSHMAN

Story and photos
by Scott Cushman
(with inserts from Jeff Strang)

What makes fish attack a lure? There is obviously something deep in its cerebral vault that says food. There is also the possibility a fish attacks out of warning or aggression. I have been surprised over the years at what fish will attack spontaneously or ignore completely.

One day, while fishing from a small wharf in Tauranga Harbour, I had a strike on a long, bronze wobbler with red reflective tape adhered down one side. A prolonged fight on 3.5-kg mono eventually yielded a fat parore. I was rather shocked to catch something, other than a kahawai, from my local spinning spot but was even more amazed to pull my treble hook out of the mouth of a fish considered to largely vegetarian.

At the same location, on a particularly stormy day, a 3.5-kg trevally grabbed my Stingsilda lure as it dropped near the bottom. I couldn't help but wonder what triggered the fish to strike that particular lure. Small snapper would occasionally grab small hex wobblers carefully retrieved near the bottom but I couldn't get any larger specimens of any species to oblige.

Lures are usually designed to spark a reaction from fish, (they also tend to spark reactions from fisherman in shops). To figure out what those triggers are, fishermen have practiced the time-honoured

tradition of observing the prey of the target species, developing theories and designs, followed by trials.

Luring fish or fishermen?

I have to admit to being sometimes sceptical about claims made and results inferred when new lures come onto the market. Is it because tackle manufacturers are looking to find new products to keep their profits up? While some fishermen can be as gullible as the fish they are trying to catch, the effectiveness of lure fishing over the years is now well proven and beyond refute.

Another influencing factor over fishing behaviour no one doubts is the drive of fishermen to experiment and the challenge the status quo in an effort to solve the fishy puzzles they often face. A good deal of lure evolution has been the result of enterprising anglers trying to get fish to bite on days when nothing seemed to be working.

The result of this evolution has been the development of a wide range of lures and jigs, which are very effective and can have the upper hand over bait in numerous situations.

Hang time For the purpose of this article I am focussing on metal jigs, and five variants that display different aspects of lure design meant to draw a snapping reaction from a target species. Various lures have different elements incorporated to help elicit a bite.

The lure shape is probably the most important factor. The shape is what gives the lure its movement in the water. Lure movement is, of course, three-dimensional, and the way the rod and line are manipulated to make the lure work is the driving force behind this movement.

The process of letting a jig drop and then hang through the water column is generally referred to as the long-fall technique. Mechanical jigging by comparison, is different because knife jigs are generally danced to the surface and don't flutter as much.

Consider jigs in general; they can be hit by fish on the drop or on the lift, and can have a distinctively different action in both directions. I haven't seen a pilchard in distress drop to the bottom at the rate of one meter per second, yet fish seem to be fooled. I am also yet to see a pink pilchard or anchovy, even so, pink is a very hot colour amongst lure manufacturers.

Strangely, even though at depths tones become difficult to discern, the colour and finish can be quite important, as can be the design printed on the body. We do know that contrast is important at depth and perhaps this is where the paint job comes into its own. In alignment with this theory is the fact that many lures have stripes or strongly contrasting sides in their presentation.

Vibration is another element that can attract and draw fish to strike a lure. The lateral line of a bony fish is designed to sense electrical stimuli in the fish's environment, either as a method of finding prey or of avoiding becoming lunch for a bigger fish.

“ I have to admit I am sometimes a bit sceptical about claims that are made and results that are inferred when new lures come onto the market ”

How much does each element above influence a fish's desire to attack? As with almost every aspect of fishing, there's no hard and fast rule and of course it changes just when you think you have it figured out.

Here are five jig types myself or my colleagues have used successfully. They all exhibit elements of the above principles and have been tested in situ.



▲ Powerjig butterfly jig front and back profiles.

Powerjig Butterfly Jig

I must admit I was swayed a little by the confidence of the salesman when I asked what his favourite jig was. Having used the lure effectively, I can see that he wasn't just feeding me a line (pardon the pun).

The shape of the jig is a little unusual, with a raised bulbous side that is constructed to displace water and create strong vibrations. This is the key feature of the lure's attractiveness and movement. The subsequent pulsing is intended to be recognised through the fish's lateral line and create predatory attention.

The other side is flat and has a highly prismatic reflection. It is a brass lure and is fished with assist-style hooks preferably (I changed out the treble that it came with).

The butterfly jig has fairly significant hang time in the water column thanks to its rounded shape and is meant to be fished with the common lift and drop style of fishing. Striving to create slack line on the drop (similar to a fly fishermen's goal of drag free drift when fishing dry flies) will produce the lure's best action. Whilst out fishing in the Gulf on a calm summer's day, I had notable success over my friend who was fishing inchiku style jigs without results.

Over a short drift I picked up several fish while he received little attention. Later watching under water footage of the lure's descent I could also make out the strong flash the lure emitted from its large flat surface.

The only potential downside of lures with large rounded surfaces and a subsequent long fall style of descent are tangles when multiple people are drift fishing from the same platform. Fishing deepish water in a fast drift situation can also be a little problematic, although a heavier jig will counteract this.



Alternative Shimano's Butterfly jig option has proved very popular with the *NZ Fishing World* team and the few we've had cross our desk for testing have been snapped up and jealously guarded. While yet to be statistically proven, this photo evidences the notion that the Shimano Butterfly jig is considered to an effective big fish catcher.

Catch Beta Bug Jigs

The Catch Beta Bug lure is a hybrid inchiku styled lure with a metal component and squid skirt component.

The metal slug is more rounded than a traditional inchiku to increase the products hang time in the water column, rather a straight drop to the bottom. Looking across the lure's profile, it is different on either side, which imparts a more erratic movement in its fall.

It also has a holographic finish, which is certainly eye-catching to the shopper at least.

There is a small track for adding attractant if preferred, and a bead is present of the assist hook cord to produce a rattle when hitting the lure on the descent.

This past winter the green coloured Beta Bugs worked well and although these lures sometimes get out fished by smaller jigs, like the Catch Kabura, when fished side-by-side they tend to pick up the larger fish when present; the largest snapper so far recorded going thirty old-fashioned pounds.

Beta Bugs are intended be fished on the drop with slow lift-and-relax movements, however they can also be fished with a slow mechanical style of retrieve when kingfish are about.

There is a strong emphasis on varying retrieve rates when fish aren't biting in Japanese jig culture so any angler would be smart to be inventive on tough days.



Alternative Shimano's Bottomship jig (below) is well established in New Zealand and has enjoyed volumes of press in recent years, with good reason. This simple to use jig works extremely well and in the hands of anglers of almost any experience. It's a long time favourite of NZ Fishing World and we always have one in the tackle box, just in case.

Catch Beta Bug front and back profiles.





◀ Deep Liner slow pitch jig front and back profiles.



▶ New market entry, Blue Blue, will be tested over the next month.



Deep Liner slow pitch jig

A style of slow pitch jig, I have been using this model over summer and, after taking a little time to refine my slow pitch technique, have found it to be very effective. The retrieve of a slow pitch is dependant on the rod spring, lifting the lure and dancing it an attractive manner.

The lure lift is just as important as the drop with slow pitch jigs, so it's important to be paying attention at both times. It is also important to concentrate on varying the retrieve rates to try and find the action that triggers a strike.

Retrieve rate can be altered with short or long pauses as well as full or half winds of the reel handle.

Stripe patterns are seen with increasing frequency on slow pitch jigs coming out of Japan. It seems to be a design, which has convinced Japanese fishermen jigs with stripe patterns are more effective. It is probably due to the contrast effect discussed earlier, when



◀ Proof of the Deep Liner's credentials.



▲ A lumo green Catch Kabura with a very solid snapper.



“ What makes fish attack a lure? There is obviously something deep in its cerebral vault that says food. There is also the possibility a fish attacks out of warning or aggression. ”

Catch Kabura Jigs

The Catch Kabura has certainly taken the market by storm, at least partly due to the success of the Wave Dancer charter fleet, which uses them predominantly. My colleague Jeff Strang has plenty of experience with them and has this to say -

“When the going gets tough, fish a Kabura. I am yet to experience a hard body lure as versatile and bite friendly. Every species seems to eat them at will; gurnard being a case in point as any Kabura left unattended dragging along the bottom seems to produce a tasty carrot when wound back to the surface.

“The basic configuration of a Kabura is a circular eye providing weight and

substance to a free sliding tentacle-like tail with ultra sharp hooks. The hook rig is extremely easy to change, which is a bonus during an aggressive bite, as packs of replacement rigs are a cost effective solution to keep a hot colour in the water.

“On the critical side, the Kabura is more of a catch-a-feed lure than a trophy hunter, although we have the pics to prove this to be a fallacy. The purist in me could also criticise this lure for being almost too easy to fish with, but I guess that is a nice problem to have.

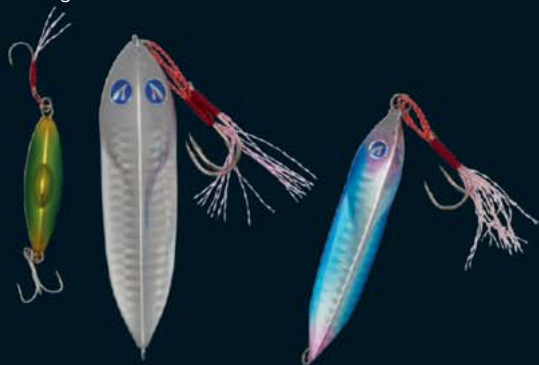
Alternative: Rod and Reel in New Market stocks a similar lure, called a Free Slider.



▲ Rod and Reel's Freeslider (top) and Shimano's Lucanus (bottom).

NEW TO THE MARKET

Although lures have been around for decades the market is currently experiencing a wave of new entries, mostly from Asia, but some that have been developed locally. It seems we have a new product dropped on our desk almost daily for testing out the on the briny. A few we thought worthy of mentioning before we have even got them wet are as follows:



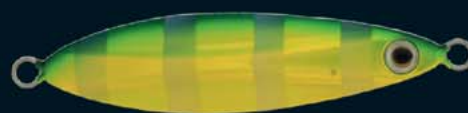
BLUE BLUE LURES

By appearance alone this product looks to have very high production values. There is little information to go on in New Zealand but stacks of content based in Japan. A few respected fishos we talk to speak highly of Blue Blue and have been pleased to see them show up on local shelves.



BRAID SAILFIN MICRO JIGS

Bought to New Zealand by Pure Fishing – the same company that distributes Gulp products – the four Sailfin micro jigs all look to have a profile designed to have a relatively rapid fall rate, so should be well suited to deeper water and multiple retrieve styles. Braid is a brand synonymous with quality and we have no doubt these will similarly stand up to the rigours of testing.



ZEST SLOW JAY SLOW PITCH JIGS

We haven't even seen these in real life yet but given Zest was the company that revolutionised speed jigging, no one will be surprised to see Zest Slow Jay jigs perform equally well.

Rigging

Most jigs these days are rigged with assist hooks at the head and are generally small when compared to other kinds of lures. The design is intended catch the fish's lips and surrounding jaw instead of deep within the mouth. Carefully playing the fish is important to avoid the hooks being ripped out of the fish's lips.

My colleagues and myself have enjoyed success on the above lures in

circumstances outside of the typical work up frenzy. Why mention this? Well, it is important these products are recognised as working in tougher situations than a work up, when you could catch a fish on an old sock.

Many of the products discussed above require specialised equipment and techniques to optimise the results. Lighter line can help impart better action to a lure as it reduces drag allowing for a more natural presentation. It also allows deeper

water to be fished, speeding up a light lures decent into the strike zone.

With most these products, and particularly slow jigs, the suppleness of the rod is critical so it will be worth investing in a purpose built rod.

If you are curious enough to ask more questions, here are some of the supplier's details: Powerjig Butterfly jigs – Gofish Tackle, Beta Bug and Kabura lures – Catch Tackle, Deep Liner slow pitch jigs – Rod and Reel, Shimano Colt Sniper micro jigs – Shimano New Zealand.



◀ All these lures are courtesy of Rod and Reel in New Market. This shop is heaven for those who like more obscure bling.



Shimano Colt Sniper micro jigs

Again, the Shimano Colt Sniper micro jig is Jeff's territory as he has been testing a range of gear tailor-made for this style of fishing –

“For me, the Shimano Colt Sniper and similar micro jigging products live in an entirely separate classification to other lure types commonly fished for snapper in New Zealand.

“Colt Sniper’s come in two styles; Long and Flat Fall. I prefer the Flat Fall style, which are comparatively light with a long and erratic drop. For this reason they are best suited to fishing depths less than 30 metres. The Long version is designed for deeper water and stronger currents.

“Of all the lures I have tried these micro jigs appeal most to my angler’s desire to have plenty of input on the outcome. Fished on the correct light gear the Colt Sniper is a delight to use as a cast-and-retrieve lure, much like a smaller softbait. Kayak fisherman will love them.

Alternatives: We recently picked up a range of new release Braid Sailfin micro jigs for testing. Smaller Blu Blu jigs could be considered micro jigs. Specialist stores like Rod and Reel have a wide selection of similar products. ☘



▶ We’ve caught plenty of much bigger snapper than this on the new Colt Sniper range, we just need to get a few more photos as proof.

▼ A selection of Shimano New Zealand’s current lure options.





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If 20% of the anglers catch 80% of the fish,
how do you put yourself in that top 20%?

FINDING THE EDGE



PAUL WALKER

Story and photos by Paul Walker

There's no single magic answer for that question. Winners are the gridders who can pull together all the small

factors on any given day, which combine to get a result. In saying that, following even just a few of the following will raise your catch rate or the size of the fish captured in a session.

So what techniques need to be followed? Some of them are obvious, some require the dedication that few people have the time and focus for. Much has to do with time on the water and the ability to recognise patterns as cues to where the fish will be.

The Obvious

To be fair, these are not necessary immediately obvious but when you think about them in detail they quickly become so.

Where are the fish? One of the common reasons you aren't catching any fish is because they simply aren't there. A reliable spot in the past does not make for a reliable one today. Maybe the fish have moved out to deeper water or north to seek winter food supplies. There probably isn't a single spot, which will hold fish all year round. As the fish move, have you to follow them.

ensure you are fishing the right tide for the spot. Fish tend to feed in different places as the tide rises and falls.

A good example of this is fishing a harbour or an estuary. The fish will come in with the tide and head to the shallows as the tide rises, looking for food such as shellfish and crabs.

Also pay attention to the channels. These are the highways for the fish moving with the current in and out of the harbour.

If you find yourself on the end of the outgoing tide there is little point targeting the shallows as the fish will have already left to ensure they don't get stranded. On an outgoing tide wvlook a bit deeper and around structure as this is where you will find fish looking for the morsels in the current to pick off as they flow past.

Fresh bait Fresh is best! Especially when it comes to bait. When visiting your favourite tackle shop ask them for their freshest stock.

If you want the very freshest bait then catch your own. and consider investing in a bait net. Before you launch your vessel of choice, walk out from the beach in an arch dropping the net behind you. Once back on the beach slowly pull it in, you'll be surprised how many good baits you'll pick up, including the ultimate candy – piper.

Fresh lures? I'm not talking fresh out of the packet but more referring to fresh on the market.

Yes, some say they are just trying to sell us something new and you can still catch a feed on the rusty jig you bought ten years ago. I won't argue with you but instead ask, "Does it work as well as when you first got it?"

Now, I don't work for a tackle company, nor am I sponsored (I'm



▲ An organised setup is an example of an organized mind.

▼ Change beaten up lures and hook rigs for fresh regularly.

▼ Stay on top of recent developments. Research in magazines and online helps.

open to offers though), but I do believe that lures lose effectiveness over time as the fish grow aware of patterns and what happens when you bite them.

So how do you combat this shyness? Use something new of course. There is a huge range of options on the market



with more and more being added every month. Also, when looking at lures and softbaits, don't be afraid of trying new colours and shapes, as you never know what the fish might take a shine to today.

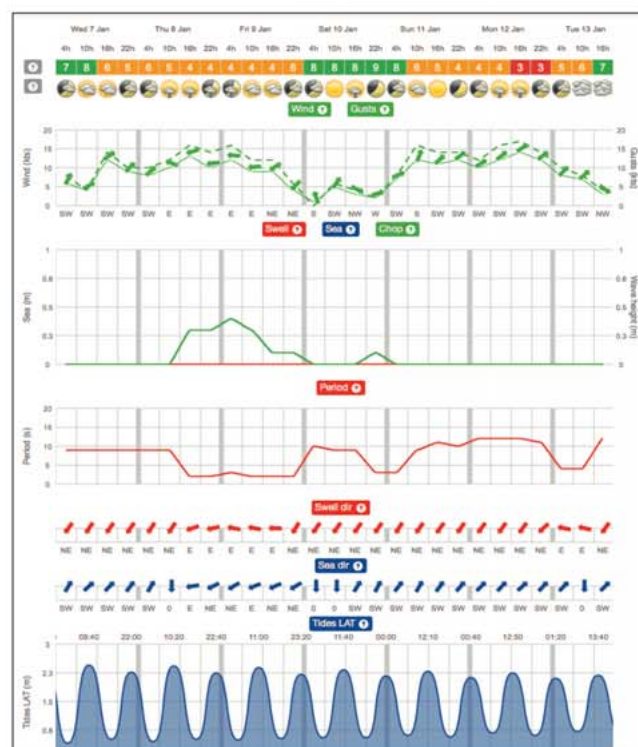
Stay sharp and wear free The best fishermen are constantly changing their terminal tackle. They don't think about how long a 10c hook can last or how many hundred fish can be caught on a \$2 jighead.

If you are the guy who fishes all day with the same hook, stop and think how many times it's bounced on the rocky bottom, how many times you've had to pull it out of a snag, or even worse (in a good way) how many huge fish have crushed it in their jaws.

Instead, every time you touch the hook for re-baiting or re-casting check, it and replace if needed. Check jigheads and lure hooks as well. The last thing you want is to drop the fish of the day because you were too tight to replace a dull hook. Check the trace for damage while you are at it.

Technique Following on from acquiring the latest fish catching bling, it doesn't matter how beautiful it looks in the packet unless you know how to use it. All lures and softbaits are designed for use in a particular manner.

➤ A huge quantity of data is available online. Use it to fill in the gaps in your log and to plan ahead.



“By far the biggest gains can be enjoyed by compiling great data on fishing spots at any time of year.”



The methods are endless and equally easy. The NZ Fishing World website is a good place to start your research, as is the local tackle shop. These guys fish with all the new stuff and know how to use it.

As well as nzfishingworld.co.nz, a quick search on Google will turn up tips and techniques from YouTube and a number of great sites. Such research is a great way to fill in an evening before a trip.

Hot info By far the biggest gains can be enjoyed by compiling great data on fishing spots at any time of year and in any conditions.

This information is only available to the most dedicated anglers. Yes, you can buy books with fishing spots in them and yes, you can hit the internet and read the fishing reports on forums, you can even talk to the locals - who may or may not be totally truthful in their advice to protect their own favourite fishing spots. But there is nothing that helps more than personal experience, and a recorded history of that experience.



“Fresh is best! Especially when it comes to bait.”

Reading your records will help remove some of the luck and replace it with experience.

Hopefully this has given you an insight into what gives some anglers the edge over the rest of us.

Of course the best kept secret above all others is to ditch the boat, get off the rocks, put away the surfcaster and fish from a kayak! ☒

Some call it a fishing diary, some a logbook or fishing log. What they all entail is a recording to the smallest detail, everything about every time you fish a particular spot.

Data to record in a logbook

Spots Record the GPS numbers of the spots where you both caught and saw fish holding. This way will be able return to the same spot next time.

Times Write down the full date and time of day you fished. Most importantly record time the fish were on the bite.

Tides Record the tide information, did you fish the incoming, outgoing, slack, etc. Also record the size of the tides and if you are fishing on a spring or neap tide, or was it even a king tide?

Moon phase Not everyone agrees with the lunar or Maori calendar and you don't need to, but you should record the moon phase for the day you are fishing.

Weather Finally, make a note of the weather. Not only on the day you fished but also record a general statement of the general weather pattern around your days fishing. Was there a storm pending? What was the barometric pressure doing? Was there a swell running?

By building up data over a few years will not only give you the ability to return to the same spot a year or more later - on the same date, with the same conditions - but it will give a huge edge over other anglers who simply go out and try their luck.

▲ Keep changing your lures with the season. You will have a better chance of catching pattern wary fish.

▼ The author reckons a kayak is tyhe only way to go. Perhaps he is biased.

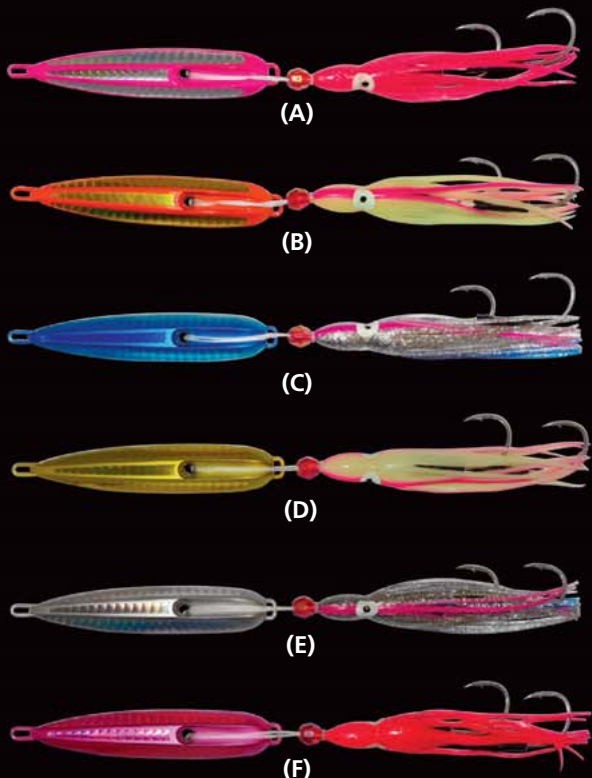


SHIMANO ENGETSU BOTTOM SHIP

Shimano Engetsu Bottom Ship Jigs are a bottom weighted metal lure that flutters on descent and weaves in a side-to-side motion on retrieve - this action combined with enticing colour options and squid skirts sparks prey-drive in species like snapper, kahawai, blue cod, john dory, albacore and kingfish.

The technique to get the best from your **Shimano Bottom Ship Jigs** is to drop the lure to the bottom, engage your reel and simply retrieve by lifting the rod tip to approximately 45degrees then winding in the slack line as you drop the rod tip back in to horizontal position....repeat!

Shimano Fishing New Zealand is excited to announce a new propriety luminescent paint that has been applied to it's **Shimano Bottom Ship** deep range (45T, 46T & 47T) of metal jigs making them even more effective in low light and deep water environments.



AVAILABLE WEIGHTS: 90, 110, 135, 160, 200 and 240 gram

Shimano Engetsu Bottom Ship Jigs are available in six popular baitfish colour profiles:

(A) PINK/SILVER (B) ORANGE/GOLD (C) BLUE SARDINE (D)GOLD/LUMO (E) SILVER/LUMO and (F) PINK/LUMO.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

WWW.SHIMANOFISHING.CO.NZ

SHIMANO STELLA SW

Shimano's Stella SW is the benchmark for spinning reels - constructed using only the best Shimano engineering principals.

Shimano's SW-X Concept brings together power, rigidity, toughness, drag performance and water resistance, with focus on retrieval power, overall strength and durability.

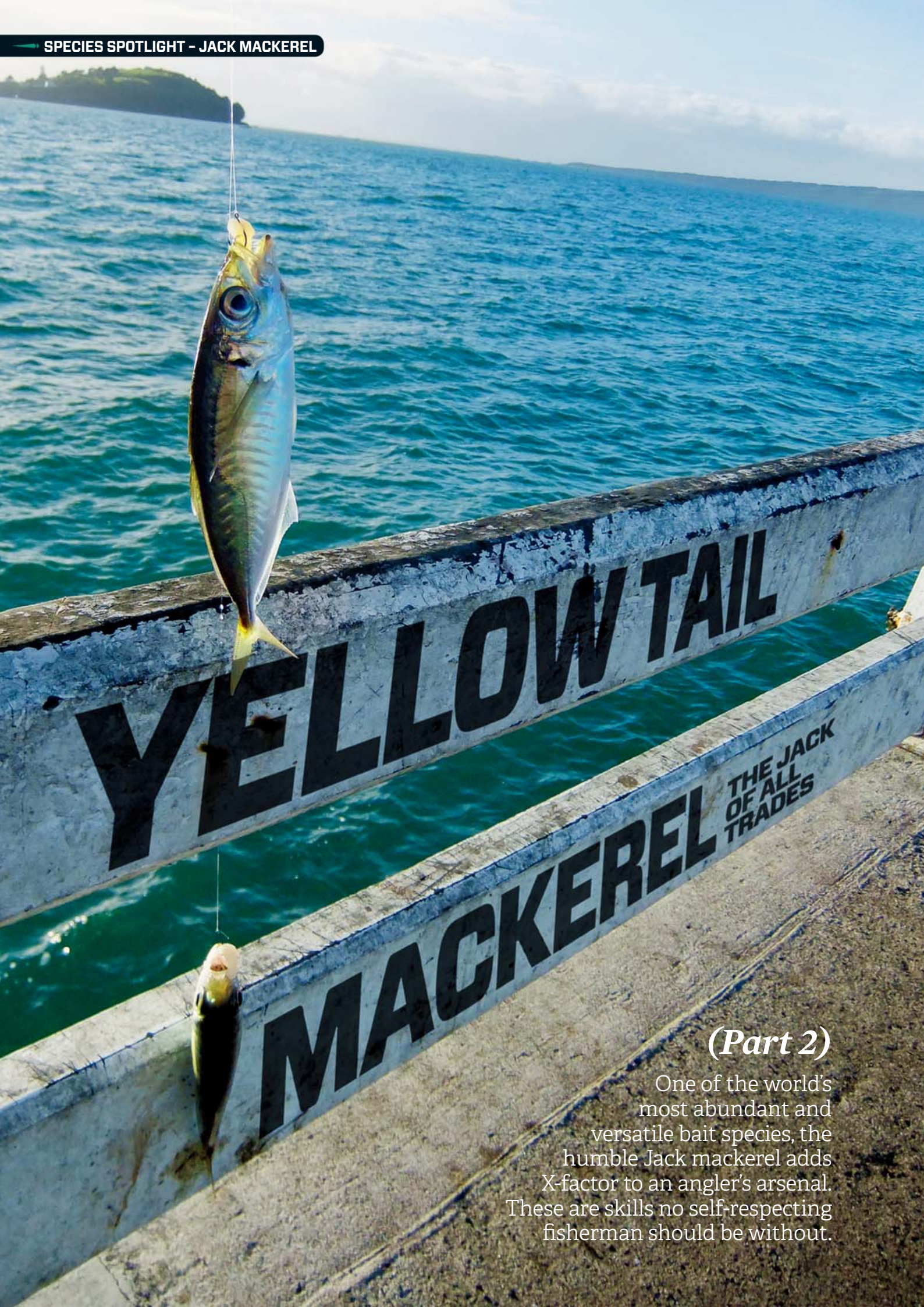
The **Shimano Stella SW** range is available in encompassing sizes, retrieve ratios and have all been meticulously engineered to handle all sport fish found in New Zealand's prolific waters and also suited for the kiwi angler looking for fishing adventures offshore.

The **Shimano Stella SW** is available in 8 models: 4000 XG, 5000 HG, 8000 HG, 10000 PG, 14000 XG, 18000 HG, 20000 PG and 30000.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

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(Part 2)

One of the world's most abundant and versatile bait species, the humble Jack mackerel adds X-factor to an angler's arsenal. These are skills no self-respecting fisherman should be without.



JOEL WESTCOT

Story and photos Joel Westcot
Additional photos by Michael Jenkins and Tom Lusk

A couple of month's ago I put together a story on fishing Jack mackerel as cut or dead baits. This time around instead of being squashed, split in

two or cut into pieces; they are being handled with care, given temporary housing and encouraged to swim freely.

Livebaiting with Jack mackerel is a highly versatile, effective and damned exciting technique to experiment with. For most anglers kingfish are the common target species, as they love to eat this distant cousin. Another frequent, rather less exciting but very desirable target is the delicious John dory. In fact almost every species on the kiwi angler hit list can be targeted, including hapuka, snapper and even marlin.

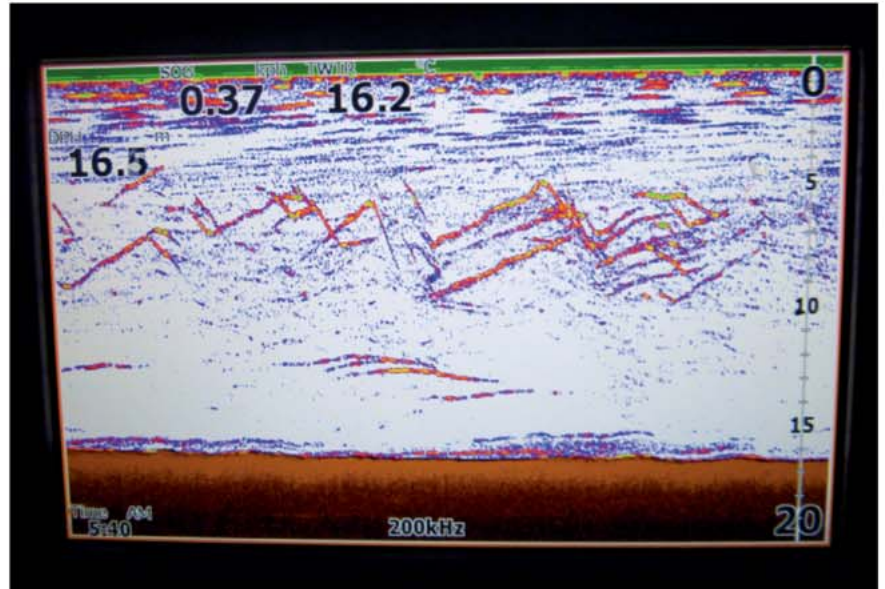
Getting started

Fishing Jack mackerel alive is incredibly effective but not without its challenges. Finding them, catching them and keeping them alive are the first three obstacles to overcome. The when, where and how questions can be addressed as follows -

When

If you need to guarantee a full livebait tank then fishing before sun-up or right on dawn is the key. Around harbours and wharves darkness seems to be best, while deeper coastal and areas are better just before or on sunrise.

Later in the day mackerel will often respond to berley. Indeed, it is not uncommon to have a whole school feasting in the berley trail. This is an ideal situation as you can procure your bait while the concentration of fish draws in the predators. Flip a livie out the back and the odds are good you'll be hooked up before the livebait tank is full.



Where

You can find Jack mackerel just about anywhere; most often around a structure that sits in reasonable current. For landbased anglers, wharves are a sure bet. Also investigate rocky points near deep water with plenty of bottom structure breaking up the sand.

For boaties and kayakers it is a similar story. Try areas with foul and current; fish finders will be helpful.

In the often vast schools of Jack mackerel you may find both the bait and the quarry, as it is common for kingfish to swim in the schools looking to pick off weak or injured fish.

▲ Jack mackerel schools pushed to the surface by the predators below.

▼ Simple and effective rigging techniques are recommended.



How

Sabikis are without a doubt the most effective way to catch Jack mackerel from a boat, a wharf or a kayak. At times the tiny flies of the sabiki will not be enough to entice a bite on their own, in which case adding a taste of bait can make all the difference.

If the fish are schooling on the surface, as will often happen around well lit wharves, a couple of very small baited hooks beneath a float is effective when drawn slowly through the school.

Tips for long life and happiness

The healthier you can keep live Jack mackerel from the beginning, the more vigorously they will swim on your hook. Here are a couple of tips that will help promote a healthy relationship from the start -

- Handle them as little as possible and only do so with wet hands or a wet rag

“Finding them, catching them and keeping them alive are the first three obstacles to overcome.”



▲ A small baited hook on a float is a great way to catch mackerel from a wharf.

- Keep long-nosed pliers on hand to unhook them quickly
- Avoid dropping them on the rocks, the bottom of the boat or over the side of the yak
- If possible unhook them in the livebait tank, and do so as quickly as possible
- Size 32 rubber bands work fantastically when bridle-rigging Jack mackerel
- If a small hook is hard to remove or down deep, cut the line as close to the hook as possible rather than trying to remove it

Comfortable homes

Although much harder than other baits like piper, Jack mackerel still need to be kept in a well oxygenated environment to stay happy – no, the boat-washing bucket is not good enough.

➤ Mackerel are one of the ocean's most abundant food sources. A multitude of species look very similar.

▼ A modified bucket for a live-tank will work from a wharf and some landbased situations.







The nose rig is a favourite for those who need to slowly troll a livebait.

The water must be refreshed constantly. Most boats have quality livebait tanks already and excellent portable versions are available in tackle stores.

With a kayak or landbased situation things are a more of a challenge. A rock pool will work for landbased fishos, as long as you have a way to extract them again. Wharf fisherman can use a bucket with a homemade mesh lid hung in the tide. You can also put a sealed lid on the bucket and transport your livies to a different location, they will survive for about 20 minutes in this situation before needing fresh water.

Macs 'n' yaks

Being a novice kayaker I thought I'd check in with an expert. Daniel Pye was good enough to share some of his hard earned knowledge with me.

Dan has been yak fishing for some years and over the last few summers has got livebaiting from a yak down pat. Finding and catching the blighters is key to Dan's success and he has found that similar to my landbased experiences, an early start is essential.

“Flip a livie out the back and the odds are good you'll be hooked up before the livebait tank is full.”



The straight-through-the-back rig works but has limitations in current.

➔ Rigging 'em up

Dan's rig from the yak

Dan fishes a simple no-nonsense rig. He runs a TLD 15 spooled with 80lb braid on an Ugly Stick Bluewater rod.

The business end goes something like this:

Braid to 80lb mono, to a heavy swivel, to 80lb fluorocarbon leader, to a 9/0 or 10/0 circle hook.

Dan does not fish with a float and only adds weight when gannets are a problem. The bait is lip hooked, making it easy for them to swim against the current while providing a solid hook-up rate.

Running sinker livebait rigs

This rig we usually associate with snapper fishing but this humble setup is great for livebaiting, especially in an inner harbour situation where kingfish often feed hard on the bottom.

Jack mackerel are an excellent choice as they are small and can be cast a reasonable distance. When using this rig it is good to bridle rig the fish. This way they are more likely to stay on the hook through the cast.

When targeting kings landbased go heavy. Start with a 20-24kg mainline, four to five meters of 80lb mono leader, a heavy swivel, one metre of 80lb fluorocarbon leader, an 8-9 or 10/0 Gamakatsu circle hook or similar.

The sinker slides freely behind the swivel. A five to six-ounce breakout sinker (is a good option to hold the livebait in place.

The Ledger rig

Yep, the good ol' anywhere, anytime ledger rig is a versatile option, which can be used with mackerel for kingfish, hapuka, snapper and John dory. Vary the size of all the terminal tackle to suit the target species and situation.

Slide baiting

Slide baiting easily warrants an article of its very own. A very simple rig I have used with success is tied as follows:

A 20kg monofilament mainline to four to five metres of 80lb monofilament leader with a six-ounce breakout sinker on the end. For the slide I use a heavy snap game swivel, 50cm of 60lb fluorocarbon leader tied to an 8/0 Gamakatsu circle hook.

I have found that back-hooking the mac gets a good hook up rate and allows the bait swim down the line freely. Macs are excellent for slide rigs as they will swim for a long time and seem to be the perfect size.

Floats or balloons

In situations where you want to keep your live mackerel at a specific depth a float or balloon is a good way to do it. This should keep the bait on the surface or just above the weed.

If fishing Jack mackerel a float is a good option and will allow the rig to be cast out with relative ease - especially sliding floats.

Again for landbased kingfish, 20-24kg mono is an appropriate weight for the mainline, followed by a four to five meter 80lb mono leader, a heavy swivel, 70 to 100cm of 80lb fluorocarbon trace and an 8/0 or 9/0 circle hook.





Dan gets on the water in darkness and finds the schools on the sounder before sun-up; the hottest bite being half an hour either side of dawn.

Dan's weapon of choice for these kingfish candies is, once again, a sabiki rig fished on a light spin set up. Livewell solutions for a kayak range from something as simple as an ice cream container to a more luxurious refreshable tank like Dan's – see pic at right.

After the tank is filled with mackerel the next step is to get one out swimming. Over the years, Dan has found the most successful way to livebait from the yak is to slow troll the mac on the surface, paddling into the current at about one to two kilometres per hour.

Parting thought

With kingfish season now swinging into full swing livebaiting Jack mackerel is an accessible, fun and effective way to get amongst the action. Getting to know

▲ Many lures feature mackerel-like paint finishes.

where in your local area Jack macs congregate is a great way to secure bait for an exciting days fishing.

The beauty is that it can be done from a wharf, a kayak, the rocks or a boat and you often don't need to venture far from the mackerel schools to find the kings. ☒

▶ A little kiwi ingenuity solves the live-well on a kayak conundrum.



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- Solid ring and split ring.

T-CASTER

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- Jewellery-like finish
- 3D Crystal eyes
- Rear weighted for further casting
- Opposite side profile to stimulate light flashes



SAILFIN

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- 3D Crystal eyes
- Suitable for casting or jigging
- Center weighted to flutter on the drop
- Opposite side profile to stimulate light flashes



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AARON LEVIEN

Story and photos by
Aaron Levien

JIGGING GEAR

THE SMALL ESSENTIALS!

If your passion is chasing kingfish with dedicated gear, here are a few specialised accessories we love but which are often undervalued and overlooked.

So you have purchased your first A-grade setup. You have a sweet new rod and reel package and you're probably wondering what to do next?

Well, that's where we can help. We'll start by loading your reel with braid and move right through to terminal tackle organisation and storage.

Braid Seriously, braid selection is one of the most vital elements of any proper jigging setup. You should spend as much as you can afford - depending on size and brand of braid you could spend anywhere from \$40 to \$200 for a 300-metre spool.

Brands I prefer are YGK Jig Man, Varivas, Sufix and Daiwa Boat. They all have pros and cons but if money is no object then I would suggest the Varivas Jigging Max braid as a top choice. If more constrained by budget then Daiwa Boat braid is pretty darn good.

One thing you will need is braid in coloured sections. Most manufacturers offer a coloured metering system of 10 x 10; or 10 colours in

10 metre sections. This is to help get that jig bang in the middle of the strike zone.

For example, while fishing in 100 meters of water you mark fish at 50 metres. Why drop to the bottom and needlessly burn energy when you could drop to 60 meters (6 colours) and work efficiently through the sign.

Leader Quality leader material could be the difference between a fish taking you to reef with a sad end or surviving a brush with the hard stuff and catching the fish, also recovering that expensive jig.

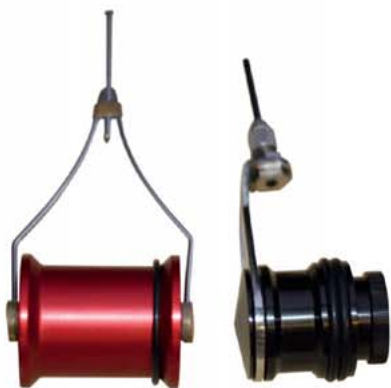
There are two types of leader material: mono-filament and fluorocarbon. Fluorocarbon has a much higher abrasion resistance than its more traditional counterpart. It is also denser, allowing it to sink faster than monofilament. Fluorocarbon has a lower refractive index than mono making it less visible to fish, perfect for leader-shy, highly targeted schools.

However, mono is softer and consequently easier to tie knots with than fluorocarbon. It is also around one third of fluorocarbon's price.





Bigger hooks on big jigs
have proven a winning
formula for the author.



Bobbins The join between the braid and the leader can be a tricky proposition. A few knots work, the most popular of which is the PR Knot. It requires a tool called a PR Bobbin.

The PR knot is complex to learn but with a few attempts, can be mastered. Visit www.nzfishingworld.co.nz to see a great vid demonstration of the PR knot.

When it comes to bobbins there are two types: a simple version where you set the tension by wrapping the braid around the arm of bobbin, and second where you can set the tension in advance. The advanced version is more expensive at about \$130, compared to \$30 at entry level.

Hooks & terminal tackle

When it comes to hook size I tend to float around 11/0 to 13/0. Generally, on 200-gram gear and 50lb braid I'll use 11/0 hooks. On heavier stuff I step up to 13/0.

The cost ranges from \$12 for a packet of three 13/0s to \$32 for a packet of three 11/0s. Personally I prefer titanium coated hooks, although it's more about form than function for me on this one.

I'm a huge believer in re-rigging assist hooks on jigs. You will need top-notch Kevlar assist cord and a good solid ring to attach the leader too. For me, Jig Star rings and grommets are the best.

Jigs Competition has been good for the market with a large variety, styles and colours to choose from. It pays to have a wide selection, as kings can be picky some days.

The size of your setup will determine the weight of jig to buy. The general rule of thumb is to fish a 300-gram jig on a 300-gram rated rods. It is not a strict rule, rather a good guide. Other factors, like depth, currents and wind all play a part in that selection.

Jigs can range in price anywhere from \$10 to \$40. Generally, the more expensive jigs will last longer and hold the exterior painting better.

Gloves In New Zealand, some swear by gloves while others simply despise them. I think it's seen as a sissy thing to wear gloves but if you look at reports from the Three Kings and Ranfurly Bank you will see virtually everyone photographed is wearing gloves.

There are pros and cons to wearing gloves. The biggest advantage is the added grip on wet days. Also, long periods of sustained jigging can really take a toll on your hands.

The down side is that gloves need to be removed when tying knots or perform detail tasks. Once again it pays to shop around as gloves range in price from \$30 to \$130. My best tip would be to buy a pair of gloves specifically designed for jigging as you know they will stand up to the task.



Gimble belts Never underestimate the raw power of kingfish, no matter what size. A gimble is definitely an item to have within close proximity when big boys hit.

There are numerous styles of gimble. Your rod butt configuration will be the determining factor but one of my favourites is the Jigging Master GT belt. It simply has a small inverted round dome. There are a few reasons we run this style:

- ① Pretty much all of our rods have a fixed rubber butt so no need for a pin.
- ② This gimble is very forgiving on paintwork inside the boat.
- ③ This style of gimble can be worn backwards when not required; a simple spin of the belt and your ready to go.

Bang for buck, you can't look past a Shimano belt. With a removable pin it can be altered to receive almost any type of rod butt.

Nets vs Gaff vs None This is definitely an area of personal preference. As a huge fan of release fishing I prefer not to have a net or gaff on board. However, if you want to ensure that solid king comes home, a gaff is your best bet.

With stickbaiting, I highly recommend a lip gaff in order to keep clear of any dangerously swinging treble hooks.



Good quality, purpose built gloves make a difference on longer, more testing days.



A net can be an effective tool for containing pesky rat-sized kingfish, which are still violent at the surface. Simply scooping them up keeps them from harming themselves, you or your boat with flying jigs.

Boating a fish without an aid can be done by simply sliding a hand down the leader (cautiously, especially if the king is still full of fight) and grabbing the jig. Now, this is where gloves come in handy – simply grab the fish in the corner of the mouth or under the jaw and lift it into the boat.

Another option is to hold the jig and grab the base of the king's tail and lift in that way. Both are effective but I prefer the corner/under-the-jaw method.

Jig Bag With all these new jigs purchased, you are going to need somewhere to put them. This is where a solid, rigid jig bag comes in handy.

“ Quality leader material could be the difference between a fish taking you to reef with a sad end or surviving a brush with the hard stuff ”

Jig bags can start around the \$40 mark and work up to around \$120. My advice is find something with Velcro flaps to stop jigs sliding out of the pockets and smacking a jandal clad foot. I can tell you it's not the greatest feeling.

We use a Zest jig bag. It has a super durable construction, Velcro flaps and is easy to store and carry.

Last word There are always hidden costs getting set up that we sometimes overlook. I promise all these are important elements, which go hand-in-hand with mechanical jigging.

It pays to shop around and look at the different styles of gear and prices before diving deep into your pocket. This is not to say you have to buy all of the above before you can start jigging. Buy one or two things at a time and build up your arsenal until you're happy. 🐟

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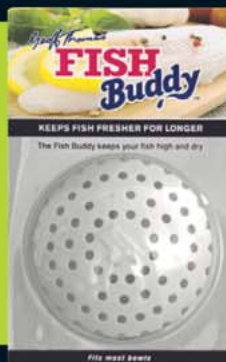


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KNOT CONFIDENCE

TESTING THE LIMITS

Any fishing outfit is only as good as its weakest link. As *Smudge* Parker points out, it doesn't have to be the knot.



MICHAEL PARKER

Story and photos
by Michael *Smudge* Parker





When I started fishing as a kid it was always my knots that let me down. I just didn't know how to tie anything other than an overhand knot.

As an adult I understood that layering a pile of overhand knots on top of each other wasn't the proper thing to do, so instead of passing the tag end of the line through the loop once, I'd do it twice. Crafty eh? No, not really.

While I tried to learn some new knots I wasn't very good at them. The only knot I actually mastered was the dropper loop, tied using a double overhand or figure eight knot. I didn't use a swivel, as every time I did the knot would fail and I would lose more gear.

One day I learnt to tie a clinch knot, which was a revelation, but every so often it would let go too. I knew by this stage there was a science to fishing knots so off I went to the library (no Google in those days) in search of some reading material on the subject. Lucky for me I stumbled upon a description of the uni knot.

One knot to rule them all

The uni knot got its name because it was developed to be a universal knot – the only one you'll ever need, at least according to the book I was reading.



▲ My assistant Motoki notes down the results of another test. In the foreground is the line testing machine kindly lent to the writer by Counties Sport Fishing Club.

TESTING

For consistencies sake I originally chose to use 40lb Black Magic hard trace for this exercise. The results surprised me so I was keen to learn more and a quick rummage through my tackle box produced a spool of Wasabi 25lb mono, some 20 and 60lb Black Magic supple trace and a spool of Black Magic 15lb fluorocarbon. However, most of the knots I tested showed a similar pattern so I've kept the results as simple as I can.

UNIKNOT

Line type	Rating (lbs) or dry	Wet or dry	No. of turns strength lbs	Highest strength	Lowest strength lbs	Average strength %	Average
Black Magic Tough Trace	40	W* **	5	43.8	32.6	37.8	95
		W	4	37.4	31	33.7	84
		W	3	31.7	31	31.4	79
Black Magic Tough Trace	40	D	5	34.1	30.4	32.7	85
		D**	4	42.7	32.8	35.9	90

CLINCH KNOT

Black Magic Tough Trace	40	W	5	35.2	28.6	33	82
		D	5	29.9	25.5	27.7	69.2

FIGURE 8 KNOT

Black Magic Tough Trace	40	W*	2	42.7	36.2	39.8	99
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TERMINATOR KNOT

Black Magic Tough Trace	40	D* **	30 up 30 down	48.4	44	46	115
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FG KNOT

6lb braid/ 15lb fluoro		D***	12	12.7	12.7	12.7	98
---------------------------	--	------	----	------	------	------	----

* Line didn't always break at knot

** Knot strength tested above line rating as line typically broke at 48lbs

Results for other line types were similar so have kept with 40lb line for simplicity. 6lb braid tested at 13lbs - only one test completed.

In my opinion there are far too many variables to accurately state the breaking strain ratings of various knots. From my testing I do think that a 90% strength rating for a well-tied uni knot is achievable.



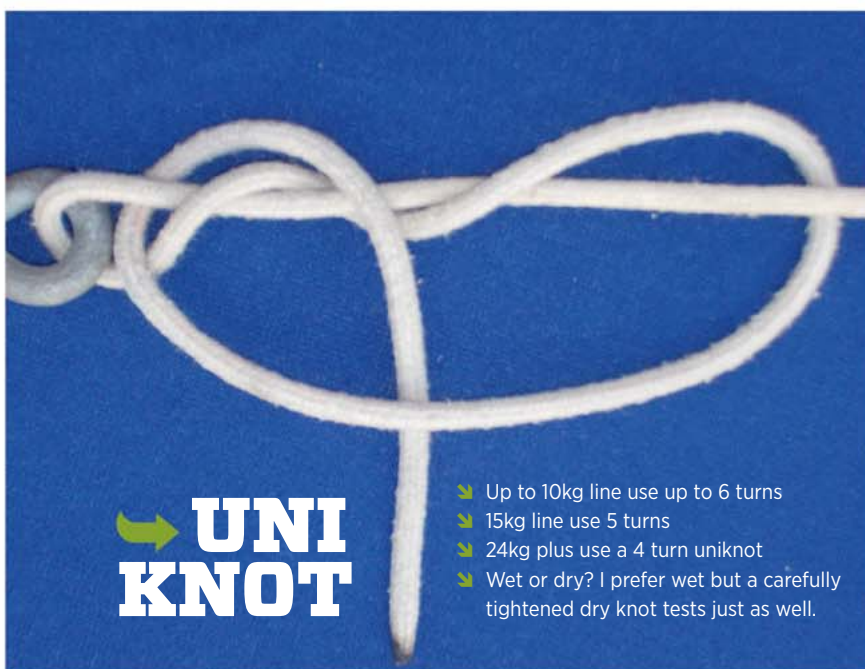
▲ This is a 'back to back' uniknot, for light line you would use 6 turns on each knot. This is a good knot to join braid to a mono leader.

▲ A properly tied figure eight knot is very strong, the key to tying it well is to ensure the line doesn't cross over itself.



9 RULES FOR TYING KNOTS

- When tying knots be consistent and fussy
- If the knot doesn't look right well cut it off and start again
- Too many turns is as bad or worse than not enough
- Learn to tie two or three knots well
- Don't let the line cross over itself
- Store your trace material out of the sunlight
- Replace your trace and mainline material every year
- Some lines tie better than others, experiment and find a favourite
- Supple lines with little memory are usually easier to tie well



UNI KNOT

- Up to 10kg line use up to 6 turns
- 15kg line use 5 turns
- 24kg plus use a 4 turn uniknot
- Wet or dry? I prefer wet but a carefully tightened dry knot tests just as well.

I also read that it was an easy knot to tie in the dark, so I practiced this knot over and over for weeks. Usually it broke very easily and wasn't living up to the hype of being one of the strongest knots around.

Sometimes though, I couldn't break it so I realised I was doing something wrong or at least inconsistently. I would practice the uni knot while watching television until I could indeed tie it in the dark.

What I learned was that a knot that looked right was also very strong and that pulling the loops up too tight before snugging it up onto the hook or swivel damaged the line, resulting in a weakened knot. I suspect similar issues lead to my distrust of the clinch knot.

These days I believe that to be a competent, self-contained snapper fisher you should master at least three knots for tying monofilament: a

While fish like this are no problem you never know when the big one will strike so always be prepared and have your tying technique sorted.



“A competent, self-contained snapper fisher you should master at least three knots for tying monofilament.”

KNOT FAILURE IS AVOIDABLE

- Using a net to lift your catch out of the water
- Retie your knots and check your line after a big fish
- Stick to what you know when the heat is on out on the water

dropper loop, a uni knot and a snell knot. If a fan of braid you also need to know a suitable knot for joining braid to mono (or fluorocarbon) and ideally a loop knot for attaching a jig head or worm hook.

What *knot* to do

When it comes to monofilament there are a few things to understand, which effect knot strength.

Probably the most common cause of knot failure is slippage. As a knot slips the compression causes the knot to cut through itself. Bunching also causes problems. Inspect your knot after tying; all the loops should be lying neatly side-by-side, not overlapping.

Other failings can be attributed to aged line and abrasion. UV light is very damaging and, after a degree of sun exposure, the line will begin to weaken significantly. Likewise, if your line is showing signs of abrasion it will let you down.

In my opinion there are far too many variables to accurately state the breaking strain ratings of various knots. From my testing I do think that a 90% strength rating for a well-tied uni knot is achievable. ☹

THE TERMINATOR KNOT

The Terminator knot makes a great connection to a swivel, and is one I have plenty of faith in. Like many knots it is known by various names. I've seen it called the Benjamin knot, the bimini knot and the shock knot. I learnt this version from a very successful local game fisherman who fishes aboard the boat Terminator.

I wasn't surprised to learn it tested at 100% of line weight. My confidence in this knot was borne from using the first one I'd ever tied for an entire year. The rig was used for snapper fishing but one day while trolling a skipjack lure we hooked a big striped marlin that stayed on for four hours - before some muppetry on our part saw it swim away. No knot failure though.



- 1 The Terminator knot is easy to tie. Pass the line through the eye of the swivel twice.



- 2 Twist the tag end of the line up the mainline thirty times.



- 3 After wrapping the tag end up the mainline 30 times wrap it back down 30 times. This is best done with the rod in a rodholder so you can keep some tension on the mainline.



- 4 Wrap the tag end right back down to the swivel.



- 5 Tie a series of half hitches either side of the line, alternating from one side to the other. Two or three on each side should do it.



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CATCHING THE UNCATCHABLE

One of the country's most successful
lure fisherman shares a few hard earned
tips on raising the winning ratio...





BONZE FLEET

Story by Bonze Fleet. Photos by Eddy Lawler - Peak Sportfishing

For the last ten years I have made it my mission to learn everything I could about catching marlin on lures. I have travelled world over, seeking knowledge from the best captains and crews before searching opportunities in the hottest fisheries to test as many theories as possible.

It has been an amazing journey and my learnings are ever evolving. In this article I will share a few tips on rigging lures and techniques for fighting fish, to hopefully help you catch an extra fish or two this season.

Before all else It seems obvious but the most important thing is to make sure the hooks are sharp. It is lure fishing 101 yet so often overlooked.



Hook sharpening is a skill that requires developing. Practice preseason will certainly help. All the world's top crews have someone on the team who is an ace hook sharpener, and who often goes unacknowledged next to the glory boys like the wireman and the captain. But those in know will recognise the guy who should always receive the first chilled beer at the end of a successful session.

Right files To achieve razor sharp hooks it is essential to possess a good pair of files.

The first file to acquire is a single cut bastard file. This is used to take the bulk off the hook, thinning down the barb and point.

The second file to get is a fine diamond-embedded file. This one is used to finish the job, polishing the hook down to a razor sharp point.

▲ Rampaging fish are best managed with light drags. Put the heat on only when you need to.

◀ The author's range of lures is quickly becoming one of the world's most respected gamefishing brands.

Once the hooks are sharp this file can be used daily to keep the points sharp with fine and accurate polishing, allowing expensive game hooks last longer.

Rig types In my experience the actual type of hook and rig is vitally important. I prefer a single closed gape hook with a loose swinging rig for the following reasons:

A closed gape hook, rigged in a swinging style, will naturally pull itself further in when the point of the hook starts to bite.

This setup is also more flexible and less likely to fail under stress - I have broken a lot of wire hook rigs, which have been stiff rigged.

That said, the biggest thing is that a swinging rig stays in place more reliably on a fish which is bill wrapped.



◀▲ The ability to catch a fish that is not properly hooked is the x-factor the best crews use to consistently come out on top.

“ALL THE
WORLD’S TOP
CREWS HAVE
SOMEONE ON
THE TEAM WHO
IS AN ACE HOOK
SHARPENER.”

This is a major factor, increasing our success rates significantly. We can all catch fish that are properly hooked; the difference is with the guys who can catch them when they aren't.

Getting in behind Big game fishing with lures is a team game, where everybody has a part to play in achieving a capture.

As the skipper it is important to focus on keeping the lure behind the fish the whole time. You may have observed a fish jumping towards the boat while the angler is hauling with all his might. Nek minute, the hook flies out straight towards the boat as the fish shakes it head. I have seen this many times.

In contrast, a fish swimming away from the boat with the leader pulling over its shoulder very rarely ever shakes the hook. Even a wrapped fish, which pulls loose, still has to drag that razor hook the entire length of its body to swim away free.



A game of chess If you can focus on the angles and keep your head in the game with the aim of a successful capture, rather a picture of black smoking glory and locked-up drags, you will swing the odds in your favour.

There are a number of ways to do this. The first is do relax a bit about maintaining a tight line. With lure fishing slack line is your friend.

Slack line creates a belly in the water forcing the lure to trail naturally behind the fish. There may be no weight at the angler's end yet the fish is still dragging the lure and line behind it, keeping the hook right where it needs to be.

The second thing is to avoid fishing straight up and down above the fish. In this scenario it is very easy to pull the hook straight off the bill as it changes direction.

Of course, the angler has a big part to play, particularly with respect to correct drag management. The angler should apply just enough drag to gain the line. This will benefit the fight in a few ways.

One, it will reduce the incidence of pulled hooks if they are fouled or in a soft spot.

Secondly, it will help reduce gear failure during a rampaging first run. Remember, no matter how much drag you apply you're not going to stop a green fish with the drag. It will also help by not turning the fish, especially if the fish is small and jumping. I have lost a number of small fish by flipping them over with lots of drag and then pulling the hook off the bill of the fish.

A reduced drag may also change the behaviour of the fish. I have found that with a light drag the fish will often stay up on the surface more and allow the skipper to chase the fish, keeping the lure behind it and a belly in the water. It is very common for the skipper to have the boat positioned beside the fish with the angler thinking the fish has gone but all they are doing is winding the belly out of the water. Next thing you have tight line and it's game on!

Exception to the rule Using just enough drag to do the job is the recommended technique while a fish is on the surface. But when the fish decides to go deep the angler must react with some heat on the drag lever.

As the fish starts to go down the skipper will not be able to chase it. Clearly, you can back up but you cannot submerge. Also, a good skipper will want to maintain some angle for leverage.



▲ A career traveling the world's hottest spots has refined the author's skills to an expert level.

“THE BIGGEST
THING IS THAT A
SWINGING RIG
STAYS IN PLACE
MORE RELIABLY ON A
FISH WHICH IS BILL
WRAPPED”

An increase in pressure may be all that is needed to get the fish to come back to the surface. Once it's back on the surface the angler can drop the drag back and the skipper can once again chase the fish.

This combination of angler drag management and skipper boat handling is a deadly weapon. You will be surprised how fast you can subdue a big fish using this technique. More importantly it will give you the best chance of catching a fish which is not properly hooked...

I hope these few tips help you out on the water this season. They have been vital to my increasing success over the past few seasons. ☘



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Fishing is not a complicated business. Understanding a few basics will go a long way towards ongoing success and enjoyment of the sport. Ados Addicted to Fishing's Nicky Sinden shares a few good tips to get you rolling.

PREPARING FOR THE EXPECTED

There is a lot to be said for training up your mates in advance of an epic fishing adventure. I recently received plea for help in the form a text message from a friend's husband, which read,

"Hello, Your mate just had the biggest tantrum on the boat. It might have been because I lost her kingfish over the side. I may need some Sinden fish handling tips to help save my marriage".

What he forgot to mention was that the kingi would have pushed the 30-kilo mark and would have been her new personal best.



NICKY SINDEN

Story by Nicky Sinden
Photos Supplied

Rigging up gear, applying bait and hooking a fish are only part of the story. No successful fishing tale is complete until the job is done at the boat. As with most accidents, shit happens quickly and you often only have a few moments to grab that fish and get it in the boat. And the bigger the fish, the shorter the window of opportunity to secure a result.

What happened in Geoff and Candice's case is a classic of example of what not to do when a big angry kingi sees the boat and goes mental.

Geoff grabbed the leader and wrapped it untidily around his hand several times. As fish thrashed around the leader started







cutting into him so he let go and gave the fish enough slack in the line to throw the hook and escape.

The result, for Geoff is an unhappy wife and a tale he won't be able to live down for quite some time.

The 90/10 rule

Broadly speaking, fishos come in two categories. There's the hardcore types who fish at least once a week and spend most of their time researching fishing whenever they're not on the water. Then there's the other 90% who love to go fishing but don't have the opportunity or time to invest in it.

When I take people out on the boat that fit into the 90% category I make sure to share as much basic fishing knowledge as I can, which inevitably makes the day better for everyone onboard. I always start with the following tips -

▲ Not relevant to the story but isn't this a superb jig-caught blue cod?

Three basic pilchard rigs

These three rigs are my go-to snapper setups when fishing with bait. They are simple, effective and easy to remember.



The Ledger rig. This rig gives you two chances as well as the possibility of a double hook up. When applying the hook through the head of the bait I like to go up through the mouth and have the hook poking out the hard part of the head between the eyes. When hooking the flesh part of a pilchard make sure to get as much meat as possible or go around the backbone, so the pilchard doesn't fall off the hook, while still exposing the barb.



Half Pilchard rig. The single hook, half pilchard rig is used in common straylining circumstances. I like to hook mine up so that the barb is still exposed near a nice piece of flesh or gut cavity. A couple of half hitches are useful. One around the hook to pull the shank down and help expose the barb, the other around the tail to help secure the bait.



▲ This Japanese gurnard was a surprise capture out of deep water. An unexpected event of a different kind.



Whole Pilchard rig. A whole pilchard can be used to entice a bigger fish or bigger bite. It is best done with two hooks; one in the gut cavity and one in the tail. A half hitch around the shank of the back hook and around the tail, with a sinker in between tidies this offering nicely. Sometimes I snap the head off the pilchard to release all the tasty juices the bait has to offer.

Boating a fish

The best practice in my opinion is for the angler to wind the line up to the leader, walking backwards to enable a mate to grab the leader and help bring the fish in to the boat. Keep the line tight and try to be quick getting it to the side of the boat.

If the fish can be landed with a net then this should always be the first option. If the fish requires a gaff, here's a few things to bear in mind -

When working the leader, start with your palms facing up and your thumbs pointing out. Wrap it around the palm of your hand in between your fingers and thumb in a way that the leader doesn't cross or touch itself. Never take more than two wraps.

“If the gills are damaged in any way the fish has a far lower chance of survival”

If the fish runs you will be able to drop the leader safely. The angler should be winding in the excess line while ensuring slack line is maintained between the rod tip and the boatman's hands.

If the fish is being sent back into the ocean, avoid handling it via the gills. If the gills are damaged in any way the fish has a far lower chance of survival.

When keeping a snapper, best practice is to iki it by following the preoperculum, which is the minor gill plate, up above the eye. Use an iki stick or sharp knife to force an incision down into the brain from that point. You will know that you have hit the spot when the fish's tail rolls up and the eyes flutter and it stops moving.

Iki'ing the fish makes for better quality eating as the stress has been minimized. Keeping the fish in salt ice will also help to preserve the meat and will make the job of filleting easier.

Gurnard and blue cod are different when it comes to their fate under the knife. They have a v shape on top of their head and if you angle a knife straight down in the middle of the v it will kill them instantly.

Kingfish have a hard head, which makes them more difficult to iki. Usual practice is to dispatch a kingy with a good whack in between the eyes on the top of the head.

Lemon sharks (also known as spotty dogs) are very common especially through the summer months while spawning. You usually catch them in the shallows, as they tend to eat crabs and crustaceans. They are a bi-catch of the general snapper fishery, particularly on the west coast. They are also great eating.

Handling a lemon shark requires a good grip behind the eyes and behind

the tail. Their skin is similar to sand paper and can chafe up your arm if you are not careful. To iki them, place a knife just behind the eye line and back towards the gills.

If you are taking them home to eat, trunk them (chop off the head and tail and remove the entrails). Also remove the magnesium line from the underside of their backbone or top of their gut cavity and place them in a salt-ice slurry to get the temperature of the flesh right down. If this is not done correctly the flesh of the fish will turn green and will be inedible.

Apart from these handy tips for our mates in the ninety percentile the other thing that I like to note is to have fun. Fishing is always an adventure and seldom one that can be 100% prepared for. ☒



▲ The same gurnard from the previous page. A couple of photos and this very pretty fish was released to the deep.



◀ Fishing with mates is very rewarding. Having them trained for surprises saves arguments in the heat of the moment.



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FINDING THE *NIRVANA* *CHARTER*

NZ FISHING WORLD INFILTRATES THE **ULTIMATE CHARTER** OPERATION TO FIND OUT IF THE BUSINESS ACCURATELY REFLECTED ITS TITLE IN THE CHALLENGING WORLD OF CHARTER FISHING.

What defines the ultimate charter trip? Most fishermen would say a voyage where everyone catches huge fish. Unfortunately the laws of nature don't support the possibility of everyone catching huge fish all the time, so does the ultimate charter come down to the taste of the individual angler? I think so.

And this is where the Ultimate Charter group excels. The company offers seven vessels, which cater for a wide variety fisher-folk and their



SCOTT CUSHMAN

Story and photos by
Scott Cushman

▼ Alex Malone on duty unhooking fish and helping clients come home with a feed.

budgets. Smaller boats offer highly personalised trips for as few as four passengers while larger multiparty vessels can cater for groups of up to 48. Trip styles can be inshore or relatively offshore and range in duration from four to 40 hours.

The upshot is that anyone can find their ultimate charter and go chase their favourite fish with their favourite mates.

Multi missions

In the month of December I went on several missions via the company and experienced both ends of the day trip spectrum, fishing with both





Brad Coley, from the band Surf Friends, celebrating his stag party aboard Koru.

small and large groups, inshore and further afield.

My most recent trip was with Alex Malone who skips the fast 8-metre alloy boat, Redskins. Alex spends his summers in NZ and in winter heads to the Northern Hemisphere to charter super yachts.

We had four paying customers and originally had our eyes fixed on the outer Gulf, however swell conditions meant we were forced to stay inshore.

“The final shot came in the afternoon when we changed tactics and broke out the bait”

Chatting to the other guests, I met Louis, who had been out with Ultimate Charters before, catching his personal best kingfish of 14kg - a respectable size for the Hauraki Gulf.

Tricia and Luke, a grandmother/grandson team, were along for the love of fishing while judging from the gear he carried, Mark was a more serious fisherman.

Flat Rock life

We made it to Tiritiri-Matangi Island and were looking (in vain as it turns out) for the usual workup activity.

Throughout the day we were moved and probed the water north of Tiri, looking for tell-tale signs of fishy action. It was sleepy aboard until we



▲ Quality charter operations always have the right gear on hand.

▼ A solid 5-kg snapper on board Redskins.



started to explore the Flat Rock area.

Schools of trevally were swimming with puckered up jaws plucking krill off the surface. Jigs were dropped and so were inchikus, with some small fish coming aboard. The little devils that liked my bait weren't the target species but provided a bit of entertainment for the rest of the crew.

I picked up the jig rod and began some rhythmic work until I felt a hit. Mark noted my excited squeak and picked up his rod too, hooking up on his second drop. His rod bent in half and he immediately got the attention of everyone on board. Alex was quickly by his side and soon a long silver shape materialized under the boat.

Straining to see the size of the expected kingfish, a snakey looking barracuda popped to the surface and our excitement was somewhat subdued. We drifted a few more times across the foul before heading back to the Whangapaoroa area.



Avoid hunching over at all costs – this is a big no-no.

Final shot

Alex had been talking to us through out the trip and had been scanning the horizon the whole time looking for birds. He was working hard to find us the fish, but they weren't very cooperative.

The final shot came in the afternoon when we changed tactics and broke out the bait. Alex lowered a berley bag on the anchor just off the bottom and we slowly drifted around the obvious bait schools that were showing on the sounder.

Finally things turned and Louis was the first to score a nice eating fish. I pulled in some pannies and Mark also scored. The berley was doing its trick and Alex hooked a solid fish then passed the rod to Luke to pull in. Everyone cheered when a good-sized snapper came aboard for the youngster, his first decent fish for the day.

Koru capers

We finished with some good eating fish and made it home in time for Alex to get ready for his next charter that afternoon on the larger vessel, the Koru, which I had the pleasure of fishing on the previous Saturday.

A slower vessel with a larger capacity, I shared the trip with a group celebrating a stag party. I tried

▲ Luke with the snapper of the day.

▲ Mark bags a snapper to make up for the kingfish that turned out to be a barracoutta earlier in the day.

▼ A sight to gladden any fisher/gourmet – a haul of perfectly sized table snapper.



to guess the groom to be, as the lads wandered onto the boat.

The tall guy with curly hair? No. The guy with the Harbour Rugby hoodie? No. The guy in bright pink tights, bikini, inflatable armbands and angel wings? I think that's him.

They were a good bunch who, in the stag tradition created mayhem in the name of masculinity, all the while observing the rules of the boat.



Redskins produced the good for us when we had Nicky Sinden along for the ride.

“These kinds of trips have a strong social element to their chemistry and this one was no exception.”

We were channel fishing around Rangitoto Island and the springtime conditions were not warm enough to have yet attracted large amounts of snapper inshore so things were a bit slow. Come January this would all change and the evening charters would be firing with good eating fish coming aboard.

Brad Coley, the formerly mentioned fisherman in pink attire with matching pink fishing rod, was obviously very secure in his manhood and didn't mind photos of his undersized catch. These kinds of trips have a strong social element to their chemistry and this one was no exception.

Work-up Trail

I also slotted in a trip with skipper Mike Trail, an ex commercial fisherman who likewise worked hard

to find the fish for his clients. Buzzing in amongst the anglers, Mike was busy baiting, unhooking and sorting tangles. Everyone went home with fish and a smile.

This trip, which yielded the best fish, was again on board Redskins. We managed to track down a workup toward Coromandel with some solid snapper in attendance.

Fish up to 6 or 7-kg hit the deck during a magical session that saw dolphins feeding under the gannet storm. It was certainly a day to remember.

For more information

Ultimate Charters has a range of vessels and options to suit almost anyone. To learn more visit Ultimatecharters.co.nz or call 0800 262 844. ☎

➔ Alex Malone's top tips

A few days after the new moon can be a very productive time to fish the Waitemata Harbour. Align this moon phase with a wind and tide running the same direction and you should score handsomely.

The full moon can be a hit and miss affair, sometimes quotas can be caught and sometimes the sack is empty. One area that does seem to fish well is the shallows around Little Barrier Island, especially in the evening.

Kingfish in the Waitemata Harbour are best targeted at times of strong tide with lures or live baits. A few days after a full moon is often worth a go.



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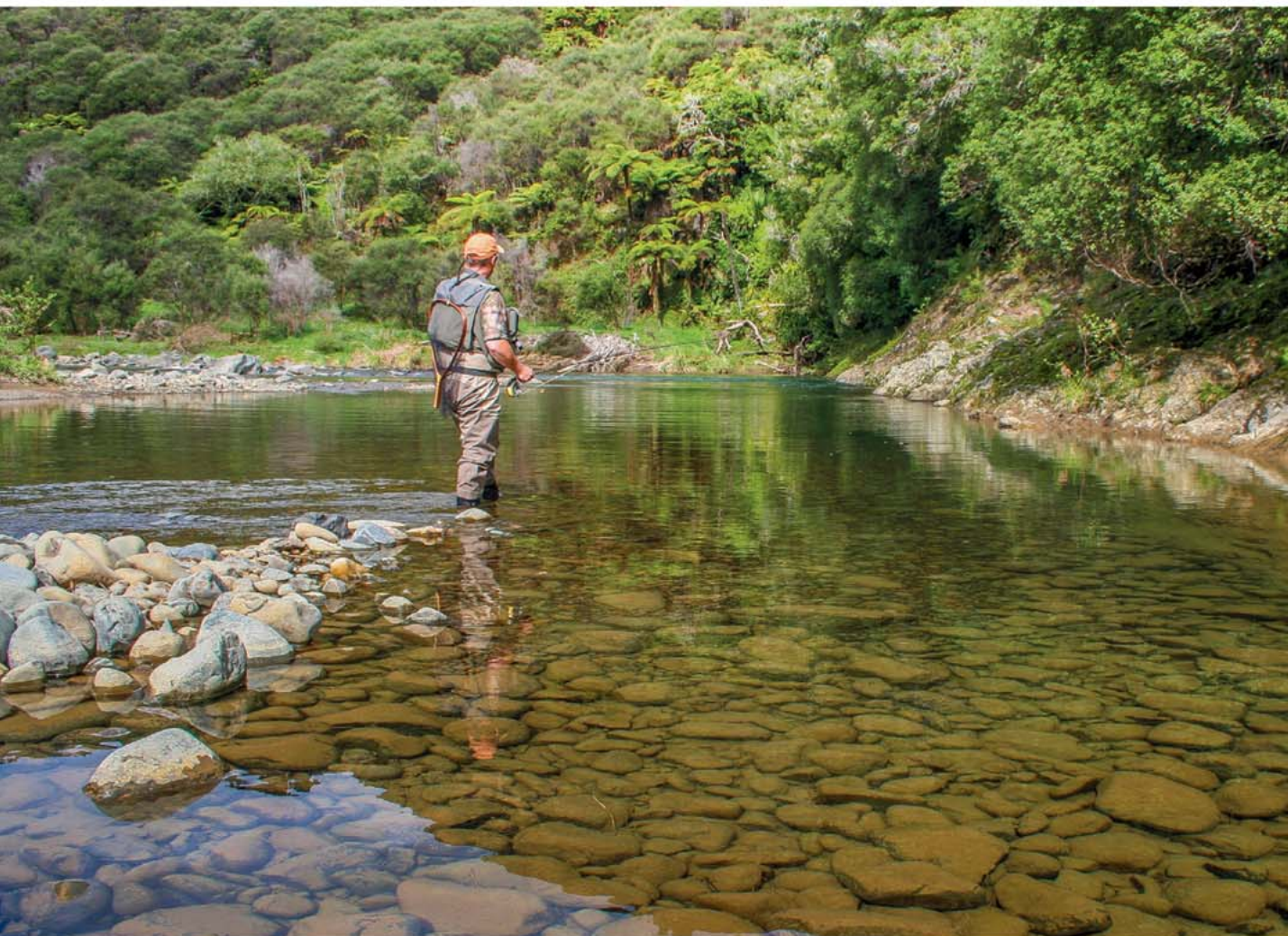


A South Island brown about to be released.

THE MIGHTY **BROWN TROUT**

To beat this bad boy brawler of the salmonid family an angler needs street smarts and more than a net-full of luck.





T

hrough the early to middle parts of the last century the brown trout was treated with disdain by New Zealand

freshwater fishos. Things got so bad for the brownie that in many of our fisheries, particularly in places like Rotorua and Taupo, anglers actually tried to exterminate them from the waterways. They were seen as predators of the rainbows and considered vermin, or something that competed with the rainbows for food.

It is interesting reading some of the old angling yarn books, such as *Trout at Taupo* by B Hintz, and Keith Drapers look at Waitahanui Lodge owner Fred Fletcher's life, in *Mr. Hundred Percent*. Some of the yarns in these books talk of children being paid money to catch mice and frogs so people could target the brownies with livebaits in the dead of the night to help exterminate them from our larger North Island tourist fisheries.

The ironic thing about the brown trout is over the last 25 years it has actually become the rock star of our trout tourism industry. People come from all over the world to target New Zealand's brownies in a range of environments, as they



MIKE DAVIS

Story and photos
by Mike Davis

are consistently the biggest in the world. Our temperate climate and relatively stable water temperatures see perfect growing conditions for optimum trout growth. So much so that the largest recorded brown trout to come out of Taupo is a whopping 51 pound. The canals in the South Island have produced them into the 40-pound class, which is unbelievable size.

Although these sizes are not typical, the average brownie is larger than the standard rainbow. Every year many double figured fish are caught in our rivers and lakes and overseas anglers flock here in the thousands to catch the fish of a lifetime.

Homeland origins

Brown trout are native to Europe and were brought to New Zealand via Tasmania in the late 1860s, with our stock coming from Scotland and England.

The distribution of brown trout in New Zealand started in the Bombay hills, near Auckland. Although concentrations in the North Island are not as high as they are down South, in many northern freshwater rivers and lakes they share the water with the more predominant rainbows.

▲ Paul Neilson scans the tail of the pool before casting.

Across the South Island the brown trout is more dominant and many rivers only have brownies available with rainbows generally only present when the rivers are associated with hydro lake systems.

Browns have a tendency to be more secretive than their cousins and don't usually show themselves out in the open as often. When trying to target them on rivers they will often sit in different types of habitat and water to the rainbow trout.

Stalking browns

Probably the key difference between the two species is that the browns will often sit and feed in surprisingly shallow water. Many anglers in the North Island are so focussed on rainbow territory that they neglect to look over prime brown trout habitat on the inside edges and often spook large fish out of the shallows as they walk upstream.

Browns are very wary about their surroundings. They will notice subtle things like heavy footfall or an angler stumbling on a rock. A stalking fisherman should be conscious of the little things, like speed movement and where a shadow falls. Try to keep in the cover wherever possible.

Before entering the water it pays to carefully stalk the edges, as they are a gold mine for browns. These areas provide food, have very little current to fight and are close to shelter and therefore are prime areas to locate them. They also love the calm edges of very fast water when boulders and flood debris break it up.

When stalking up the inside edge be sure to cast at anything that looks suspicious. As you get better at scanning you will start spotting more fish further upstream. Never scan right in front of your feet, many anglers do this, always

try to spot fish 15-20 metres out and make a plan once the fish is seen.

The first shot is always your best so work hard for the opportunity. If it has a shadow or if the bottom colouration changes slightly, cover it with a cast. It is amazing how often the side of a rock or a log has turned into a fish.

The tail of a pool is another hot spot to find large browns. Your approach needs to be the same as if you were stalking up an inside edge and because the water tends to flatten out with softer currents so your presentation must be at its best.



✦ A beautiful golden North Island brown released to fight another day.

“THE LARGEST RECORDED BROWN TROUT TO COME OUT OF TAUPO IS A WHOPPING 51 POUND.”

✦ Brownies love to sit in the tails of pools, this is a prime area to locate them.





“YOUR APPROACH BECOMES MORE LIKE A HUNTER TARGETING A SIGHTED FISH INSTEAD OF CASTING AIMLESSLY AND WAITING FOR A FISH TO TAKE.”

▲ Russ Anderson scans the tail of a remote back country pool.

▼ Summertime sees large browns move in the Waipa tributaries as the main Waikato river gets too warm.



Fight dirty

Once hooked keep browns on a short lead. Be prepared to follow them if they dash downstream as they fight very differently to your average rainbow.

Large brown trout will often head for the closest snag available. They love sunken logs, wrapping you around large underwater boulders and will often dive into undercut banks in an attempt to get free.

Habitats and food

The brown trout is very adaptable and is equally comfortable living in the estuarine environment as a true freshwater one. People that chase whitebait will be familiar with seeing brown trout and kahawai smashing up the smelt around river mouths when the whitebait are running.

Salmon anglers also catch high numbers of sea run browns when the salmon start to enter the rivers to begin their spawning runs. Most of are caught on a spinner because the water at the river mouths is generally large but into the change of light and into darkness the fly fisher stripping smelt patterns could be deadly.

Up the river browns will feed on a wide variety of aquatic insects. Most of these will be small but brown trout will feed on almost anything that happens to find its way onto the water. To be able to catch them consistently it is not about the fly pattern, rather the presentation.

A brown trout is a sucker for a well-presented dry fly and will rise freely to it. Because the average size brown is fairly large they need to take in large amounts of food to keep their size and condition. This means that larger terrestrials such as beetles, crickets and cicadas are important parts to their menu and make up a large part of their diet over the warmer months. During the years we are plagued with mice and other rodents when the beech trees mast, the larger browns will lock onto these and feed hard.

Harder in lakes

In the lake environment the brown is even more elusive. Bodies of water that carry both rainbows and browns a catch rate could be as high as 100 to 1 in favour of the rainbows.

There are a few things that can change your odds though. Browns love coming in close to feed at night and fly fishers around Lake Taupo and the Rotorua region do really well on them at this time.

Some river mouths around these lakes are notorious for holding really large browns. Waihaha, Waihora



A perfectly spotted brown taken on a small mayfly dry.



▲ Stalking up the inside edge, scanning 15-metres ahead.

and Whareroa in the western bays of Taupo all have good populations of brown trout and many people fish these river mouths specifically to target the fish.

The Ngongotaha stream mouth and the Ohau Chanel in Lake Rotorua have few equals in the North Island and consistently produce really big browns.

The Ngongi mouth is different as these fish can be stalked over the flats. This means your approach becomes more like a hunter targeting a sighted fish instead of casting aimlessly and waiting for a fish to take.

Many of the lakes in the South Island are also fished this way and on a still morning many fish will be seen from a distance before the wind gets up. By walking and wading the shallow margins it is mind blowing just how many fish can be spotted. Fishing this way will improve your presentation of the fly and make you better at spotting fish in the water.

Once spotted try to cast 4-5 metres in front of the fish.

As the fly sinks give it a few strips to impart some action into the fly then hang it for a few seconds again and repeat the process. Often as the fly is sinking back down in the water the brownie will accelerate and engulf it. You can change the retrieval rate until you find what the fish want on any given day. This type of fishing is hard to beat and becomes addictive.

At night browns feed hard on koura or fresh water crayfish. They love smelt and bullies and during times when the lake levels are up they will even feed opportunistically on frogs.

When fishing insect based lakes such as Aniwhenua or Otamangakau look for action with damselflies and dragonflies. These insects are important to the angler and often hatches of the damselfly can be so concentrated you will be literally covered in them.

The brown trout is not the easiest fish to catch but they will keep you coming back for more. If your presentations are poor they will let you know every time by turning you down. But equally, when you get it right you will be rewarded with a truly magnificent fish, maybe even your trophy of a lifetime.

The humble brown trout really has been our country's Cinderella story and has certainly put New Zealand on the forefront of the fly fishing world. 🌟

▼ Phil Davis gets the rewards for a successful stalk in the shallows.





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CALLUM MCKENDRY

Story and photos
by Callum McKendry

OLD DOGS KNOW TRICKS 2

Where the old boy shows this young buck who's boss.



couple of issues ago I wrote about the many different types of fisherman I meet on a daily basis in New Zealand. Many have

completely juxtaposing views on all the things that make this industry great.

However, there is one they all agree on. No matter what, getting out there and enjoying it, should be at the top of the list.

My old man, Gordy, was the centerpiece of the article. His old-school view on fishing leads to many an argument and it fuels our passion. And this is where the story begins, with my mate Peter Ulmer and I, hatching a plan to teach the old boy a few new tricks.

Well made plan

It was a simple idea; get out on the boat, find a work up, watch Gordy squirm as he tried to master micro jigs and then write a story about it. The ultimate ending included me catching the biggest fish and taking my rightful place at the top of our family totem pole, ideally sipping on an ice-cold beer. Oh, how wrong I was!

We launched from Sandspit at gentleman's hours, figuring there was no need to slog out an early start as the work ups were mainly firing late afternoon. Armed with a beautiful

arsenal of Shimano Colt Snipers and Trinidad setups, we were ready to go. Dropping the boat in the water I had the usual feeling I have when I am about to head out; this is the day where everything would go perfectly.

Great bait and a surprise

I always like to pick up live baits on the way out. Their uses are boundless. Let them swim freely around a work up to pick up a lurking kingy, weight and drop to the bottom to pick up a big boy snapper, or kill and fillet as fresh bait.

Stopping at our spot x on the way out of the harbour I dropped a sabiki down on my little Stradic. This spot is flat and open, with heaps of species around. It can do your head in as you can sometimes pick up 25 baby snapper to one yellowtail. Today was no exception, first drop three way hook up ... baby snaps.

After an hour we had 10 livies, not a long time but a lot of unhooking and rebaiting was needed during that period. I felt a slight nervousness in my mind, this is not how I saw this day going.

Last drop, a small tug and what do you know, baby snapper coming to the surface with a look of shock in his eye. I announced to the boat, I was done. Suddenly a dark shadow chased up our little red friend, and he was gone.









This confirmed a debate we had in the office only two weeks prior. Kingfish do eat baby snapper – not that is legal to use them on purpose, of course. In four meters of water I was fighting a legal kingy hooked with a sabiki rig, the day had just got interesting. Getting a bit tired of this feisty bully pulling so much string I cranked on a fighting drag. We decided if I lost him it wouldn't be that big of a deal as you could bend sabiki hooks with your fingers.

We got him to the boat and he went 770cm. The glutton had swallowed the snapper and its spine had hooked him internally. My ultimate day was back on, what could be a better start than answering a question you had been asking yourself for years. Right, drogue in boys, and just like Captain Phillips, “Gordy, I’m the captain now”.

“ I had been cocky and overconfident. I didn’t know it yet but I was about to be reminded of an age-old lesson; respect your elders.”

Back to reality

Unfortunately what ensued was hours upon hours of hunting, scanning the horizon for birds, and growing more and more anxious. We were out between Kawau and Tiri, where Peter and I had cleaned up just three weeks prior. Willing to travel long distances we trawled the area in desperation, constantly encouraged by the Old Seas Dog’s now favourite saying, “where are the birds boys”.

Four hours went by and nothing. We were either missing them by miles, or all of the gannets had taken the day off. I felt bad, I had roped Pete into poking fun at my old man. In reality, he has mastered most types of fishing and could probably read the situation a long time before I did. I had been cocky and overconfident. I didn’t know it yet but I was about to be reminded of an age-old lesson; respect your elders.



Captain Gordy on the helm

It came as quick as gunfire. "Rods up boys, we are out of here". Sadly, what overcame me was a slight feeling of relief. Gordy took the helm and we headed towards the back end of Kawau. Having opted to take only minimal bait out with us, sorting this problem was his first mission.

Pulling up along side a drop off from a rock face we trawled a kahawai lure and picked up some freshies. Dad positioned the boat and dropped the anchor so that we could strayline off the back into the rocks. No berley and limited time left on the clock, we started to cast some baits.

We had a few options with fresh kahawai and mackerel. Pete worked with a beautifully put together butterflied mackerel. The old man went for his traditional old school approach - a stinky old whole pilly, double hooked and then sealed with a half hitch. I got halves, because if I was

seen taking a whole then I was wasting bait. It's been that way for 23 years!

Old dog does trick

With the biggest bait in the water and his new Trinny 12A in the rod holder Dad sits, and waits. Fifteen minutes went by when nylon pulled at a rate of knots from the reel. Gordy jumped up faster than I have ever seen him move before and clicked the reel into gear. He struck so hard I'm surprised the fish didn't come up missing its bottom jaw. A quick fight ensued and a beautiful 10-lb snapper came to the boat.

A sigh of relief fell over us, we weren't going home empty handed. This great session continued for the next couple hours. More nice size 10-lbers came on board, admittedly mostly on the end of Gordy's rod. Pete hooked up what could only be described as an absolute donkey of a snapper; it took him for a ride and broke him off on the bottom. Maybe the fishing gods were having a laugh

with the young buck as well, because I caught nothing but a couple pannies.

The wrap is that while I was taking the photos of Dad with his fish, he gave me a cheeky smirk; I think he knew my plan all along. He let me run with it though, knowing that if it worked I'd be proud as punch, if not he could keep teaching me a thing or two.

See, there is no end to what you can learn in fishing. No matter what it is or who you learn it from, it all goes into your mental tackle box and comes in handy. You will hand it down to others and the trend continues from there. I learnt on this day to keep your mind open, plans can change and you have to adapt.

As you are reading this story, my old man will be too. So well done Gordy, you win this round. He's just celebrated his 60th birthday, so what do you think about jigging at the Ranfurly banks for part three? I'm sure his back would love that. ☺

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NZ Fishing World's gear testing program - February 2015 update





SHIMANO TEREZ/THUNNUS COMBO

Tested and reviewed by Michael "Smudge" Parker

After four months of testing I feel this combo has all the attributes important in a stray-line set. I have used it in water from 5-metres to 60-metres deep and it has excelled in all situations in that range.

At 7'2" the Terez is perfect for straylining, as is the Thunnus 8000

reel with its baitrunner feature. The Terez is rated at 15-lb to 30-lb and this set was supplied with Suffix 12-kg mono - a perfect line weight for the set.

I would be comfortable fishing it between 10 and 15-kg but I do think 8-kg is a touch on the light

side, especially given the 10-kg drag capacity of the reel.

Initially I wasn't fussed on the ergonomic shape to the rod grip but that turned out to be a complete non-issue. This set is light, robust and will handle large fish with ease.

PROS

- Smooth & powerful reel
- Great rod action
- A great combo.

CONS

- None at all 5/5

ACCURATE DFS BX400 REEL

Tested and reviewed by Aaron Levien

This month I thought I would talk the all important handle size and arm length.

I decided to opt for the longer length arm at 95mm and the smaller T-Bar handle. The smaller T-Bar on the small bx400 doesn't jeopardize the balance of the reel while jigging.

The longer arm makes for easily line retrieval while fighting the fish but does mean you have to work a tad more while jigging.

The engineering of the T-Bar handle is what impressed me a lot here. There was simply no movement between T-Bar and arm. Some reels have a tiny amount of play, which becomes very frustrating while jigging.

Next month: Time for a drag test





JIGSTAR TWISTED SISTA MECHANICAL JIGGING ROD - GUIDES

Tested and reviewed by Aaron Levien

Guides are an underrated but critically important part of any series jigging stick. The Twisted Sista sports awesome looking Weibo Gun Smoke coloured guides with silicon carbide (SiC) inserts.

SiC is the most advanced ceramic technology available today. Its superior hardness suites braided line perfectly. One major benefit of SiC guides is the increased heat disbursement meaning the guides stay cool to ensure braided line is not damaged.

What I noticed most about the guides is the stripper guide (the first one). It is lifted high off the blank to allow the anglers hand to be positioned under line when the rod is loaded up to its full potential. It's these things that really make a difference.

Next month: Getting a grip

JIGSTAR SLOWJERK ROD

Tested and reviewed by Scott Cushman

The Jigstar Slowjerk rod has become quite a favourite in my stack of fish sticks. I'm hoping they will let me keep it as I think the reel is stuck to it now.

The rod is rated for PE1-2 line and jigs up to 120-grams. It is 6'3" long and designed specifically for fishing slow pitch style jigs. For example, it has a very short fore grip, designed to aid the spring action of the blank to lift the jig to impart action in it.

The rod action does what it is designed to do; flick a slow pitch jig upwards through the water column and let it flutter and or flip to attract strikes from hungry fish. On one charter trip, it was getting noticeably more attention than the others on the boat, who were also fishing different styles of jig.

Upon hooking into fish, the rod quickly folds down to the grip section. But this is where the power kicks in provides the lifting power.

The thin blank has a fast action when fighting fish. This may make some fishermen nervous, however, having landed some solid snapper and smaller kingfish I don't grimace any more when something decent snatches my lure and makes haste.

Although it wasn't designed for other styles of fishing (inchiku, micro jigs or heaven forbid, bait fishing) I couldn't resist slinging some different metal with it and even got the handle dirty with pilchard blood.

It's a versatile rod useable for all the above although some may not like it for bait fishing as it can feel a bit dainty in the hands and bait fishing can get a bit rough and dirty.

The rod blank and finish oozes quality and although the guides are quite small I didn't bend or dent any of them over several hot sessions.

If I had any criticism, I noticed the reel seat needed an occasional twist or turn during fishing to keep it tight. I don't think it suffered from creep but it did come loose by the end of the day.

I coupled the rod with a Shimano 400D Calcutta and Duel Speedy 12 reel and both worked well.

I would highly recommend the new Jigstar Slowjerk rod, it fishes slow pitch jigs well and is versatile enough to be your go-to all round jig rod.

- PROS**
- Good action on jigs
 - Quality blank and finish
 - Slim blank but still has power for fighting fish

- CONS**
- Reel seat can shake loose through out the day





Daiwa Morethan Branzino

Few reels had the looks, strength and refinement of the legendary Morethan Branzino released in 2008. An amalgamation of the best spin reel technology Daiwa had to offer, the Branzino was cutting edge design cloaked in a black, industrial styled armour. Offering unrivalled power and precision it was a perfect marriage between beauty and brawn. Now the legend has returned, and it's back with the same swagger, advanced designs, and eye catching good looks.

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CATCH KABURA IN NEW COLOURS

*Tested and reviewed
by Scott Cushman*

This month I had the pleasure of testing two new Catch Kabura colours - Shady Lady (pink and white) and Ballistic Blue. Each colour was provided in two weights - 40 and 80 grams.

The kabura style generally, is very effective and stacks up against other styles of snapper jig very well.

The new colours performed well, with the blue slightly ahead of the pink on most days.

From a durability point of view, the skirts lasted well, even after a chewing from some good-sized snapper. They clearly last longer than a packet of soft-bait tails and the paint likewise withstood toothy action from aggressive snapper.

Actually, I am yet to break out replacements skirts after months of use. I had no problems with the Kevlar attachment string, which I attached via a clinch or uni knot to a fluorocarbon trace.

The small assist style hooks have also proven durable and strong enough for the fish encountered. I haven't pushed



the drag past 3 or 4-kg when fighting good fish, which is plenty of drag for most circumstances.

The small hooks are designed to lip and jaw-hook fish and aren't intended to take a lot of strain like a typical stray-line hook. They are corrosion resistant; I have seen no deterioration beyond the surface to affect performance.

The 80-gram version proved the best all-round option for fishing 20-metre to 50-metre depths in various wind and current conditions.

The two new colours accounted

for many snapper but also accounted for kingfish, gurnard and mackerel from my fishing trips. After months of testing and catching fish, I really can't find any issue with these lures. They aren't a magic bullet but I would highly recommend them for drift fishing or putting in a rod holder with a bit of swell to give it some action.

PROS

- Durable
- Effective
- Well constructed

CONS

- No reasonable criticism in my books

SHIMANO VORTEX 10' 10-15KG ROCK ROD

Tested and reviewed by Scott Cushman

The new Shimano Vortex 10-15kg 10' rod is a winner. I was a little hesitant when holding it for the first time, as it wasn't as heavy as its predecessors. Some may interpret its lighter weight as being less durable or capable however I would confidently assert that the new design is an improvement over the previous models and a joy to use.

The graphite-glass construction transfers plenty of power into the hands of the fisherman who needs a worthy rock fishing weapon.



It ticks the right boxes for power and sensitivity with a surprising reserve of grunt in the butt for those rampaging snapper that burst for the nastiest foul. I didn't try a destruction test but horsing small kingfish gave the rod a serious bend on 15kg line. I never felt afraid of it reaching its breaking point whilst pulling hard and it had more to give.

Can a rod with hefty reserves of power be sensitive as well? In short, yes, it was sensitive enough to detect all kinds of bites. I would certainly be happy to target annoyingly efficient, bait sucking trevally with the Vortex.

Whether it was braid or mono, I liked the action in the tip, which had a distinctive clear finish.

It easily cast un-weighted baits as well as lures and it has been well designed as a versatile rod capable of handling a range of techniques the rock fisherman would employ.

As mentioned, it is a light rod but don't let this fool you. It is purpose built for rock fishing and doesn't disappoint on quality, performance and price point.

PROS

- Powerful and sensitive
- Can handle the rocks
- Light weight but no light-weight

CONS

- Couldn't find anything to fault ☹

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▶ HOT NEW THERMAL CAMERA

Using a combination of ultra long-range and thermal night vision sensors, Raymarine's new T-800 Series camera can detect man-sized objects at up to 4.2-km away and small, 2.3-metre objects at up to 12.4-km away. Once detected (either visually or on radar), the sophisticated T-800 Series then seamlessly links with any modern Raymarine MFD to track those objects. Impressed? You should be. The T-800 Series also features a Picture-in-Picture mode that can display images from two of the three sensors at the same time (one full screen and the other as a smaller inset). For product and dealer information visit www.lusty-blundell.co.nz



▲ ZEST SLOW PITCH JIGS ▼

With its latest range of eye catching lures, leading designer, Zest, has entered the Slow Pitch market in style with a range it is calling the Slow Jay. Designed to swoop then hover when worked in the Slow Pitch manner. On the testing ground Slow Jay's consistently produced hits between rod lifts. This is when the jig is at a hover and seemingly most attractive to fish.

The Slow Jay jigs are available in 6 popular Luminous Zebra striped colours and in sizes 60, 80, 100, 120 and 150g. Zest Slow Jay jigs come factory rigged with twin assist hooks and will be stocked at top tackle stores near you.



▼ TOP CATCH NOVELTY TEES

Just landed Top Catch, these t-shirts are the hottest fashion statement going right now. Worn by the boys from *Big Angry Fish* and *Fishing and Adventure* television shows, you too can be a star out on the water or at the game club. There are five colours to choose from, including a women's tee, each with great slogans on the back to match every occasion. For more information and pricing visit www.topcatch.co.nz





▲ THE ODOUR ERODER

New to Top Catch stores, Fishy Fingers is a classic style bar of soap for the recreational fisherman to add to their tackle box and filleting station. Fishy Fingers is the product the average kiwi Joe fisherman been waiting for - a cost efficient and reusable classic bar of soap, which is easily stored on the boat. For more information visit www.topcatch.co.nz or call into the nearest Top Catch store.



▲ BRIGHTER LIGHTS

New Amphibian Pro Xtreme underwater LED lights are the brightest Amphibians ever, more than triple the brightness of the previous Amphibian Pro Series equivalents. Exceptionally easy to install on the transom or hull, the new strobe feature is said to be ideal for attracting fish and bait. Maintenance is easy due to its Tritonium™ coating (available on all OceanLED lights); just wipe away the marine growth. For more product information and to find your local dealer visit www.enl.co.nz



▲ NEW DRAGONFLYS

Raymarine's incredible new Dragonfly models put some of the world's best fish-finding and navigation technology in the hands of small runabout, kayak and PWC owner's hands - at the right price. With CHIRP technology included in the 4.3" and 5" widescreen displays, as well as the innovative Wi-Fish black box viewable on any size smart device, Raymarine claims to be the first marine technology company to offer such advanced fish-finding capability in units that start at under \$399. With a choice of 4.3-inch and 5-inch screens, the new Dragonfly models come with a rugged ball and socket mounting system that makes them easy to position for optimal viewing. For product and dealer information visit www.lusty-blundell.co.nz





▲ PRAWN STAR BAITS

It's the number one selling recreational bait in the US and it's just as popular in Australia. Perfect for targeting snapper these snap-frozen high quality prawns work well on ledger rigs but the most popular method of using these prawns is to rig them like a slow jig, with a swivel sinker attached to assist hooks. So far this summer local testers have found this method deadly on the snapper, particularly when slowly bounced along the bottom. Prawn Star baits are available at Top Catch stores with a recommended retail of \$3.99 per 226gm bag (contains 28-40 whole prawns).



▲ RESCUEME

Ocean Signal's new rescueME MOB1 is the world's smallest Man Over Board device to come complete with AIS (Automatic Identification System) and DSC (Digital Selective Calling). A ground-breaking 30 percent smaller than similar products, the lightweight and easy-to-use rescueME MOB1 is designed to attach easily to even the most compact lifejackets, ready for automatic activation in the event of a man overboard situation. The rescueME MOB1 features an integrated 66-channel GPS receiver, ensuring that it will transmit accurate position data for a minimum of 12 hours. An integrated strobe light with moulded lens ensures the survivor is also easier to spot in poor light conditions. For product and dealer information visit www.lusty-blundell.co.nz

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Perfect package for those wanting a portable live bait tank just fill up with water and clip to your battery. Package includes: 15, 45 or 55, Litre Tank, Small lid, Bung, RULE 360 GPH Portable aerator Pump with suction feet, Handles. Or complete custom set up made just for your boat. Prices start at \$316.



The ideal live bait tank set up, allowing maximum longevity of your live bait. Ideally situated on the duck board where 5 holes are drilled into the tank for continuous flow of water. Package includes: 15, 45, 55, 70, 75, 85, 125, and 300 litre Tanks, Small, medium or large lids, Bung, RULE 500 GPH Tournament series pump, and bracket, and all plumbing to set up tank system. Or complete custom set up made just for your boat. Prices start at \$499.



Our latest live bait tank combo comes complete with a single removable 138mm ID Tuna Tube, 55 litre tank (can be customised to suit larger tanks with twin tubes also), small hatch, 1100 Gph pump, pump bracket and all plumbing. This combo is ideal for those how want to incorporate all there live bait into one area, with only using a small amount of area. Tuna tube can be easily screwed from tank and then have access to all 55 litre of tank space. Pump flows into both tube and tank at same time or tank by itself when tube removed. Prices start at \$675 for full 55 litre combo.



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Al's Seafood Rice Paper Rolls

Pilsners are a type of lager, named after the town of Pilsen in the Czech Republic. While light in colour and served cold, Pilseners typically have a stronger hop flavour and aroma than other lagers, which gives them their characteristic bite. Pilsners go really well with spicy citrusy flavours like in these rice paper rolls. These rolls are light, delicious, healthy, and they look like you have gone to a lot of trouble. They're fun for the whole family to make too, so you can set up the ingredients and leave them to knock them out.

Ingredients

- 4 Tbl Palm Sugar (grated)
- 1 Tbl Lemongrass (finely chopped)
- 1 tsp Fresh Ginger (peeled and finely chopped)
- 1 tsp Garlic (peeled and finely chopped)
- 1/2 Red Chilli (seeds removed, finely chopped)
- 2 Tbl Fish Sauce
- 1/3 Cup Lime Juice

Step 1. Dipping Sauce

Method

Place all the ingredients in a bowl and stir together to combine. Set aside on the bench top, and stir every 30 minutes until the palm sugar has dissolved. Refrigerate until required.

Ingredients

1 Cooked Crayfish (substitute with practically any protein; try raw salmon, or cooked chicken)

Rice Paper Rounds (16cm diameter)

Warm Water

1/2 Cup Salted Peanuts (roughly chopped)

2 Cups Bean Sprouts

1 Red Capsicum (sliced into thin strips)

1/2 Cucumber (seeds removed, cut into thin strips)

1/2 Iceberg Lettuce (thinly sliced)

1 Cup Mint Leaves

1 Cup Coriander Leaves

1 Cup Basil Leaves

Dipping Sauce

Step 2. Rice Paper Rolls

Method

Remove the tails from the crayfish. Cut the tail in half, and then extract the meat from the shell. Slice crayfish tail into thin strips, and set aside. Break the body and the legs off the crayfish and remove all the meat.

Fill a large bowl with warm water, and lay out your rice paper roll ingredients together, ready for assembly. Soak 1 rice paper round at a time, for 30 seconds to 1 minute until soft. Remove from water and lay out flat on a clean tea towel. Drop another sheet in the water to soak while you fill rehydrated rice paper.

Place a little crayfish down on the soft rice paper, then some chopped peanuts, followed by bean sprouts, red capsicum, cucumber, iceberg and some torn herbs. Roll one edge over the filling lengthways, then fold over the side flaps. Then roll up, and making sure the roll is sealed. Place on a platter and repeat the process until you have a stack of rolls, and have run out of the prepared ingredients..

Serve rice paper rolls with the punchy dipping sauce on the side.

Serves 6

made
—TO—
MATCH



BRUCE DUNCAN

Story and photos Bruce Duncan

From the **SEA** *to the* **TABLE**

As is said, “the proof of the pudding is in the eating” and never more so than with fish.





Why is it when we buy fish the flavour is never as good as the fish we catch? Well, much of the

fish in the shops comes off trawlers so the fish flesh has often been compressed by the sheer bulk in the trawl net when it comes to the surface and is held alongside waiting to be released onto the deck. Then it's iki spiked (more for appearance than effect) and iced and packed in the hold for a few days until it is offloaded, sorted and sent to the retailer.

With this process in mind it is little wonder that the texture and taste is affected. Yet, many leisure fishermen still take little care of their prize catch, ultimately failing to maximize its quality.

ADDRESS THE STRESS

The moment a fish is hooked it is stressed. The way it is handled it from the net to the chilly bin plays the biggest role in the fish's eventual eating quality. If the fish hits the deck hard it will bruise. If tossed in a fish bin live it will further bruise itself, as well as any other fish in the bin.

Best practice is to lift the fish from the water then hold it upside

“Iced water relaxes the flesh and is the first stage of setting the flesh before being fully surrounded and packed down in salt ice”

▲ A sunny day will quickly ruin fish if you don't have an adequate cooling method on hand.

▼ Best practice is to iki, then remove the hooked and place the fish into an ice slurry.



down. This stops the fish thrashing around while you remove the hook and decide whether to keep or release your quarry. An iki spike or knife inserted at a 45-degree angle from just behind the eye towards the jaw is the best way to euthanize a fish ready for eating. Hit the right spot and the tail will kick around, then relax.

ICY TREATMENT

Salt ice is readily available from most garages and bait & tackle shops. If not available in your area, using frozen drink bottles to chill saltwater will do decent job of chilling the catch.

Ideally fish should first be placed (not dropped) into an icy slurry. Iced water relaxes the flesh and is the first stage of setting the flesh before being fully surrounded and packed down in salt ice. This part is easily overlooked when the bite is on but when the fishing slows down make an effort to do this as it is well worth it when filleting time comes. The firmness and quality is very noticeable and makes the filleting job much easier.

If you prefer to fillet at home take a container of saltwater home to wash the fillets. Most pros recommend never to use freshwater as part of the process.

The ice packing will have contained any moisture loss prior to filleting but some will occur overnight in the fridge. Leaving the skin on the fillets and laying them flesh side down will help greatly, even if it means a little extra work prior to cooking.

REST FOR BEST

A chef's trick is to always allow the fillets to rest over night before cooking. Another is to use a stainless bowl rather than a glass or ceramic one. Covered and kept this way the fillets will stay fresh for much longer than you may be accustomed to.

As suggested above, I only skin and bone the fillets just before I want to cook them. There may be a few scales on the flesh so rather than wash them I wipe them with a paper towel then dust them with corn flour. Corn flour is more refined than normal flour giving a better seal to retain the moisture.

I like to plan ahead and take the covered fillets from the fridge to come up to room temperature prior to cooking. Chilled fish, like meat, will shrink losing moisture and flavour if dropped into a hot frying pan from cold. Always cook the fillets with the skin side up as the fine membrane on the skin side holds the moisture until the other side is sealed by heat. Only turn the fillets over when they are 80% cooked through.

BIGGER FISH

To get the very best from larger fish, such as kingfish or hapuku, follow the same iki, slurry, ice pack process as with smaller fish. But rather than steaking them in the traditional way by cutting through the backbone, simply fillet each side as you would a snapper.

Why? Well, the steaking process opens up the end grains of the flesh allowing further dehydration. It also knocks the flesh around a lot with all the forceful handling as you muscle your way through the backbone.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As it is seldom you can eat even one side of a big fish try butterflying the fillets into meal sized portions. Seal them up in zip lock bags using a bucket of water to force out the air. Fishing legend Snooks Fuller, liked to keep a little saltwater in the bag for the best possible result.

Filleting – step-by-step



1 Lie snapper flat on steady surface



2 If right-handed, hold a sharp filleting knife in your right hand and hold fish down over its head with your left hand



3 Make a cut down the side of fish, behind the pectoral fin



4 Make an incision down the length of fish, cut to 2cm deep



5 Cut straight through at tail section & bring knife to the end



6 With your left thumb separating the fillet from the bone, gently cut the flesh from the body



7 At the tail end, work knife back towards head separating the fillet from the fish but do not take completely off

8 Turn fish over and repeat process. Keeping the first fillet attached makes this side easier to work. Remove both fillets. Remember to keep your fish on salt ice. Wipe the fillets down with a damp towel or napkin. Do not rinse them in fresh water unless you plan to eat them straight away.



Take the fillets off a kingfish whole, as you would a snapper, only cutting into steaks just before cooking produces the best results.

“A chef’s trick is to always allow the fillets to rest over night before cooking. Another is to use a stainless bowl rather than a glass or ceramic one”

SCALLOPS

For years I had never given any thought to the best way to treat scallops, as they generally have a life span from six minutes to a max of six hours from shucking to scoffing.

Like fish that has been skinned and boned, once shucked scallops lose a lot of moisture content quickly. Once, due to time restraints, I put the scallops in the fridge (un-opened and flat side up) over night. Overnight the scallops died and the shells partially opened, which made shucking them way easier. When cooked I swear they were the most moist, firm, flavoursome scallops I have ever tasted.

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

I am constantly reminded what a great and bountiful country New Zealand is. Yet we take so much for granted and are so wasteful. Just think of how many fish frames you have tossed over the side without a second thought.

By simply cutting off the head and tail you are left with a frame that can be one of the simplest of gastronomic delights.

Placing scallops in the fridge over night flat shell up makes for easier shucking and a more moist and succulent result.



Washed, dried and lightly dusted in corn flour then dropped in a hot pan, quickly turns them golden brown and the flesh left between the bones just flakes off. Hand a plate full of crispy snapper backbones around the troops and I will bet you my last bottle of Captain Morgan, they will disappear quicker than Homer Simpson’s doughnuts.

LAST TRICK

I must admit had never been a great fan of fish soup until recently, when I was treated to a very quick and simple recipe.

Toss a few clean fish frames into a pot with around a litre of lightly salted water and simmer for twenty minutes. In a hot frying pan with just enough oil to stop the ingredients sticking, stir in sliced fresh ginger and a couple of squashed cloves of garlic. Once lightly cooked toss them into the fish stock, along with a couple of spring onions and simmer for another ten minutes.

Add in a tiny bit of oyster sauce or Chinese five-spice for taste and you have simple, clean and delicious clear soup for an entrée.

Another Editor’s Note – The backbone trick is a beaut. On larger fish, like kingfish and hapuka, try filleting in such a way as to leave a little extra flesh on the backbone. The fillet will still be more than generous enough and the fried backbone steaks are a whole meal on their own. ☘

Cook your catch with *Dish*

The Summer issue is full of ways to cook your catch of the day



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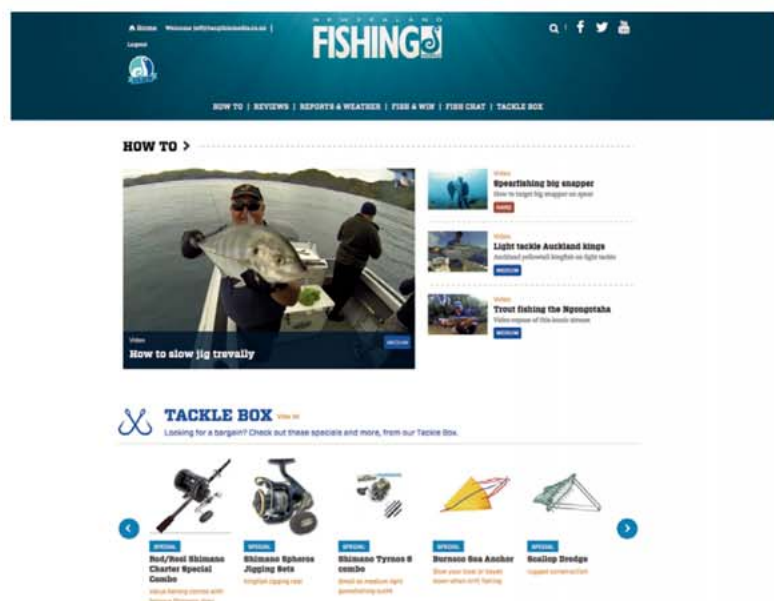
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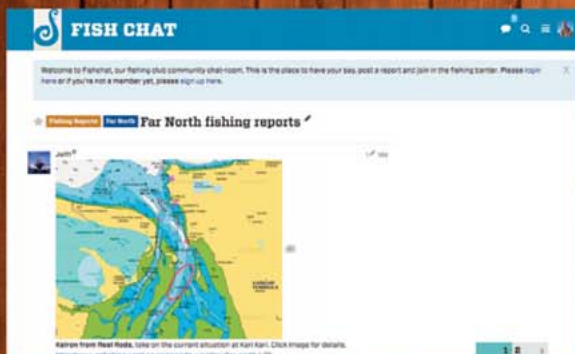
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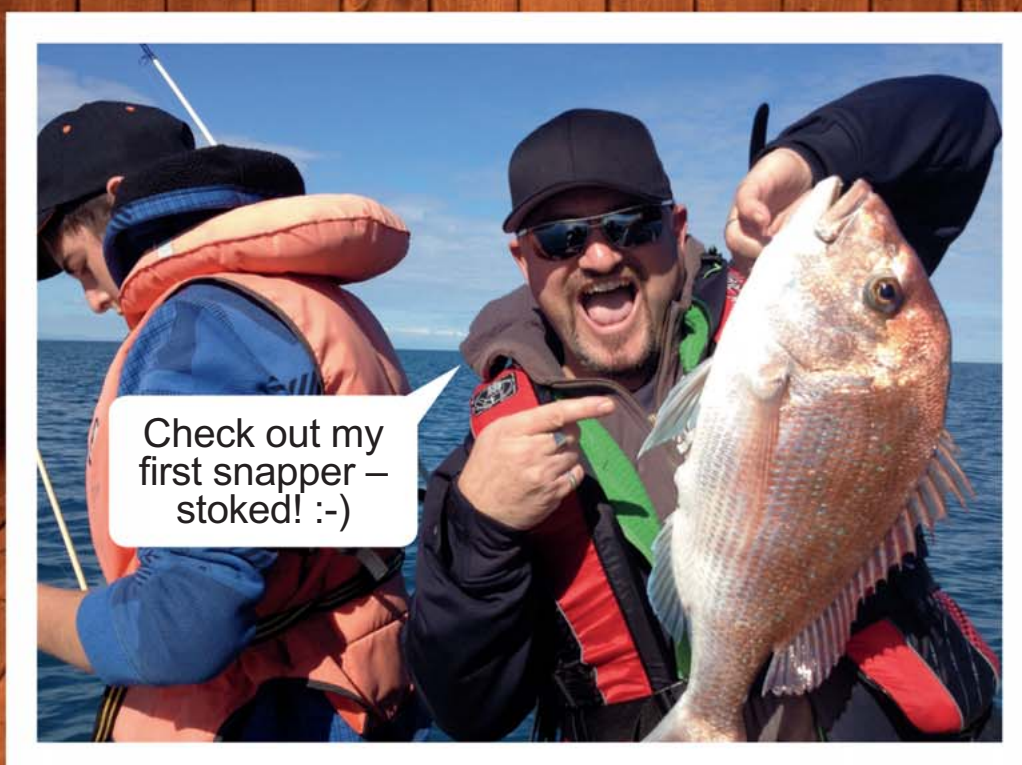




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HAPPY SNAPPERS

Do you have a fish photo that you want to show off in NZ Fishing World? Send us the image with a brief description to editor@nzfishingworld.co.nz.



Beth Pike, looks delighted with this solid 10-kg king caught at the Mercury Islands.



Jordayne Bardin caught and released this 15-lb snapper while straylining off Papa Aroha, with her Dad.



winner

Best Christmas Day ever: Michelle Anderson caught this snapper on Christmas Day with her brand new Shimano rod, gifted by her hubby. Michelle's huge snapper was caught at Kawakawa Bay, using sardines as bait.



Jeremy Clark sent us this pic of a Far North striped marlin. The fish weighed 136.8-kg, for angler K Bellingham, on the launch Great Vintage.



Rob Parker's eight-year old son Taj, with a 2-kg pannie snapper from his first fishing mission on their boat, off New Plymouth. This fish was caught on a Black Magic 3/0 with his Shimano 4000FB kidstix.



Pete Militch caught this big bass near White Island on a fishing trip with his mates.



6-year old Sam Stewart with a 21-pound snapper caught near Kuaotunu. Nice work Sam.



A John dory like this doesn't come along every day. Well done Karen Bates, who was fishing somewhere near Angler's Lodge, in the Coromandel.



Jeremy Saunders and his mates discovered just how curious mako's can be, even deep in the heart of the Hauraki Gulf.



Adam Galvin's pretty happy with this kingfish, speared at the Ahaaha Rocks a few weeks ago. It weighed exactly 20-kgs.



A day's fishing out on the brother and sister-in-law's boat from Kawakawa Bay produced this 83-cm kingfish. It smashed a livey and put up a great fight but was no match for the Daiwa Monster Mesh Opus Bull 6000 Combo. The sender would like to thank Tony Jack Rea and Carlenna Green.

THIS MONTH'S WINNER

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RECREATIONAL IS NOT

Summer is a hectic time of year for the LegaSea team. There are fund raising events, fishing contests and community gatherings to attend. It is such a buzz to see people enjoying the fishing, the camaraderie with their mates, and the quality time with family.

And this is just a snapshot of how fishing provides for our wellbeing. We must all work together to ensure we have abundant fisheries so our kids can enjoy a meaningful fishing experience. While hard to imagine, their lives are likely to be much busier than ours, so they will need time-out and simple pleasures like fishing, just to stay sane.

One of LegaSea's 5 Principles is to value recreational fishing. Our activity supports a vast array of businesses, from boat builders, tackle dealers, bait and ice suppliers and the assortment of fishing media.

Many coastal communities rely on the summer influx of tourists, including fishing families, to maintain their accommodation, fuel and goods supply businesses.

It is irrefutable that recreational fishing adds value not only to our lifestyle but also to our communities and national wealth.



FISHING A WASTE!



In 2013, Seafood New Zealand, the lead industry fishing organisation, submitted against the Minister adjusting the recreational allowance for snapper to meet current needs. Instead they submitted, (in part) “we would note that the interests of New Zealand are better served by:

- The generation of export receipts rather than the high value consumption of imported components;
- The need to ensure that available savings are channelled into productive investment and not wasteful consumption.

So what does this mean? We stop buying tackle and imported fishing gear? We stop building boats and outboards and seaside infrastructure? Forget about coastal communities who thrive during the summer months? Not likely!

LegaSea is adamant, recreational fishing and the economy of our fishing activities is not “wasteful consumption”, it is pure gold.

Fishing contest

A prime example of the value of recreational fishing is the Marsden Cove Fishing Club’s Fishos versus Spearos fishing contest, held in late November. 170 men, women and children entered the one-day competition. The spearos won the majority of prizes, the stories were longer than any of the fish caught and the kids had a blast!

Best of all they welcomed the LegaSea team and supported the vision of *more fish in the water so future generations can enjoy a meaningful fishing experience.*

Northlanders have strongly supported LegaSea from the outset and this occasion was no exception. We look forward to developing relationships with the people we met at this event. Go the Taniwha!

Building LegaSea

Westies are a special breed, as was demonstrated by the Building LegaSea event held at Heritage Tiles in Henderson late November. This venture was made possible by the

strong support of Peter Roberts of Heritage Tiles and Brett Davy of Bathroom Systems Ltd. Thanks team.

Seabirds and fishing

The Hauraki Gulf has been described as the seabird capital of the world. If fishing in the Gulf please take care to avoid catching birds. If you do hook them, learn how to release them with as little damage as possible to the animal (and you).

A basic release kit includes items you would most likely have on board anyway:

- Line clippers or scissors
- Towel
- Pliers
- Landing net

Go online to www.southernseabirds.org and fish smart this summer.

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Editor's note: The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect the views of NZ Fishing World.

FISHERMEN'S BOATS

Keen to get amongst it out there?
These boats have caught our eye
and might just do the job for you.



Surtees 6.1 Workmate

PRICE: \$46,995

YEAR: 2007

ENGINE: YAMAHA 150HP FOUR-STROKE

INCLUDES: Trim tabs, underfloor fuel tank, duel batteries, bait board, hydraulic steering, Surtees single axle with spare wheel and much more.

DESCRIPTION: Surtees 6.1 hardtop powered by a Yamaha 150hp four stroke. This model is well known and respected in the marketplace.



Extreme 650 Sport Fisher

PRICE: \$62,850

YEAR: 2005

ENGINE: DF 140 SUZUKI FOUR-STROKE

INCLUDES: Ski pole, deck wash, dive bottle holders, Furuno electronics, stereo, fire extinguisher, Lewmar auto winch, anchor warp & chain, rear spot light, under-floor fuel tank, a 9.9 hp mercury auxiliary and more.

DESCRIPTION: This Extreme 650 powered by the excellent DF 140 Suzuki four-stroke. The engine has approximately 500 hours on the clock.



Buccaneer 490 Cabin

PRICE: \$12,500

YEAR: 1990

ENGINE: MERCURY 115 TWO-STROKE

INCLUDES: Fish finder, day canopy, fish bin with squab on port side, bait board, navigation lights, fuel tank, spare wheel and more.

DESCRIPTION: This Buccaneer 490 presents as a nice entry level boat for harbour fishing and bigger adventures on the right days.



Challenger 720 HT Offshore

PRICE: \$79,995

YEAR: 2005

ENGINE: 200HP EVIRUDE E-TECH

INCLUDES: Hydraulic steering, twin batteries, bilge pump, trim tabs, auto winch with anchor warp and chain, GPS / fishfinder, wash down, stereo, lockable cabin, toilet, road cover, tandem axle trailer

DESCRIPTION: The Challenger 720 is a large craft with plenty of fishing room. It's a great sea boat if you looking to target the bigger fish and further offshore.



Stabicraft 1410

PRICE: \$29,500

YEAR: 2014

ENGINE: 60HP YAMAHA FOUR-STROKE

INCLUDES: Day canopy with clear front window, VHF radio, Lowrance GPS / fishfinder, bilge pump, nav lights, anchor warp and chain.

DESCRIPTION: This Stabicraft 1410 is a well-proven harbour and inshore fishing runabout. The dealer is open to offers.



Buccaneer 720 Elite

PRICE: \$59,995

YEAR: 2004

ENGINES: 200HP YAMAHA

INCLUDES: Electric winch, stainless bimini top with clears, back drop, full squab set, electric toilet, table, rear spot light, radar, auto pilot, GPS, fishfinder, VHF radio, gas cooker (needs gas bottle), sink, bait board and more.

DESCRIPTION: One of the classier trailerable boats, this Buccaneer 720 is powered with a 200 Yamaha with an eight horsepower high-thrust aux motor with electric trim 'n' tilt and start.

**MARINE
FINANCE**



All this month's boats supplied by Tauranga's Mastertech Marine.

For more details contact:

RYAN CARMICHAEL

Mastertech Marine

Tauriko Business Estate,

60 Whiore Avenue Tauriko, Tauranga

PHONE: 075794240

MOBILE: 0226013165

EMAIL: sales@mastertech.co.nz

WEB: www.mastertech.co.nz

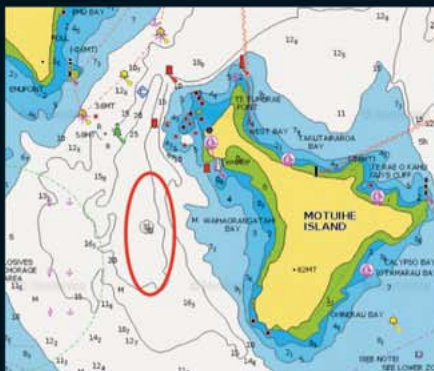
BITE TIMES



CHECK OUT **KEN RING'S BITE TIMES** FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH THEN GET OUT THERE AND FIND THE ACTION!

FEBRUARY	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th		
MOON				Full Moon		Ap						Third Q							New Moon P							First Q				
Best Bite Time am/pm	10.30	11.30	12.00	1.00	1.30	2.00	2.30	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	7.30	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	1.30	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00		
Next Best Bite Time am/pm	4.30	5.30	6.00	7.00	7.30	8.00	8.30	9.00	10.00	11.00		12.00	1.00	1.30	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	7.30	8.00	9.00	10.00		11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	3.00
RATING																														

MARCH	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
MOON					Ap	Full Moon								Third Q						New Moon P							First Q				
Best Bite Time am/pm	9.30	10.30	11.00	12.00	12.30	1.00	1.30	2.00	2.30	3.30	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	1.30	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	7.30	8.00	9.00	9.30
Next Best Bite Time am/pm	3.30	4.30	5.00	6.00	6.30	7.00	7.30	8.00	8.30	9.30	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	2.00	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	7.30	8.00	9.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	1.00	1.30	2.00	3.00	3.30
RATING																															
																															



NZ FISHING WORLD EDM

- WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE FISH ARE BITING?
- WANT TIPS ON HOW TO CATCH MORE FISH?
- WANT TO KNOW THE BITE TIMES?
- WANT TO BE OFFERED HOT CHRISTMAS DEALS FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Then sign up for our weekly EDM and get into the midst of the angling action. Go to our website www.nzfishingworld.co.nz and sign up in a few easy steps.



Tide charts 2015

AUCKLAND

February

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
		AM		PM	
1	SU	6:20 3	12:23 0.9	18:41 2.9	
2	MO	0:45 0.8	7:13 3	13:15 0.9	19:34 2.9
3	TU	1:34 0.7	8:01 3.1	14:02 0.9	20:23 3
4	WE FM	2:18 0.7	8:45 3.1	14:45 0.8	21:07 3
5	TH	2:59 0.7	9:25 3.1	15:26 0.8	21:48 3
6	FR	3:37 0.6	10:04 3.2	16:04 0.8	22:27 3.1
7	SA	4:15 0.7	10:41 3.1	16:42 0.7	23:03 3.1
8	SU	4:51 0.7	11:17 3.1	17:19 0.7	23:40 3
9	MO	5:29 0.7	11:54 3.1	17:56 0.8	
10	TU	0:17 3	6:09 0.8	12:32 3	18:35 0.8
11	WE	0:56 2.9	6:51 0.9	13:12 3	19:17 0.8
12	TH LQ	1:40 2.9	7:38 1	13:56 2.9	20:03 0.9
13	FR	2:29 2.8	8:31 1	14:45 2.9	20:55 0.9
14	SA	3:26 2.8	9:30 1	15:41 2.9	21:55 0.9
15	SU	4:29 2.9	10:31 1	16:42 2.9	22:58 0.8
16	MO	5:32 3	11:32 0.9	17:47 3	
17	TU	0:00 0.7	6:31 3.1	12:30 0.7	18:50 3.1
18	WE	0:59 0.5	7:28 3.3	13:27 0.5	19:50 3.3
19	TH NM	1:53 0.4	8:21 3.5	14:21 0.4	20:45 3.4
20	FR	2:46 0.3	9:14 3.6	15:14 0.3	21:38 3.6
21	SA	3:37 0.2	10:05 3.7	16:06 0.2	22:29 3.6
22	SU	4:27 0.2	10:56 3.7	16:57 0.2	23:20 3.6
23	MO	5:18 0.3	11:47 3.6	17:48 0.3	
24	TU	0:10 3.5	6:10 0.4	12:39 3.5	18:39 0.4
25	WE	1:02 3.4	7:04 0.6	13:31 3.3	19:31 0.5
26	TH FQ	1:56 3.2	8:01 0.7	14:25 3.2	20:26 0.7
27	FR	2:54 3.1	9:01 0.9	15:21 3	21:24 0.8
28	SA	3:54 3	10:02 1	16:19 2.9	22:25 0.9

March

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
		AM		PM	
1	SU	4:55 2.9	11:02 1	17:18 2.9	23:25 0.9
2	MO	5:52 2.9	11:58 1	18:16 2.8	
3	TU	0:20 0.9	6:45 3	12:49 1	19:09 2.9
4	WE	1:09 0.9	7:32 3	13:36 0.9	19:57 2.9
5	TH	1:53 0.8	8:16 3.1	14:18 0.9	20:41 3
6	FR FM	2:33 0.8	8:56 3.1	14:57 0.8	21:21 3.1
7	SA	3:10 0.7	9:34 3.1	15:35 0.8	21:59 3.1
8	SU	3:47 0.7	10:11 3.1	16:11 0.7	22:35 3.1
9	MO	4:24 0.7	10:47 3.1	16:48 0.7	23:11 3.1
10	TU	5:02 0.7	11:24 3.1	17:25 0.7	23:48 3.1
11	WE	5:41 0.8	12:03 3.1	18:04 0.7	
12	TH	0:28 3	6:24 0.9	12:44 3	18:45 0.8
13	FR	1:11 3	7:11 0.9	13:28 3	19:31 0.8
14	SA LQ	2:01 3	8:03 0.9	14:18 2.9	20:24 0.9
15	SU	2:57 2.9	9:02 1	15:14 2.9	21:25 0.9
16	MO	3:59 3	10:04 0.9	16:17 3	22:31 0.8
17	TU	5:03 3.1	11:06 0.8	17:24 3	23:35 0.7
18	WE	6:05 3.2	12:06 0.7	18:28 3.2	
19	TH	0:36 0.6	7:02 3.4	13:04 0.5	19:28 3.3
20	FR NM	1:32 0.4	7:58 3.5	13:59 0.4	20:25 3.5
21	SA	2:25 0.3	8:51 3.6	14:52 0.2	21:18 3.6
22	SU	3:16 0.2	9:43 3.7	15:44 0.2	22:09 3.6
23	MO	4:07 0.3	10:35 3.6	16:34 0.2	22:59 3.6
24	TU	4:57 0.3	11:25 3.6	17:24 0.3	23:49 3.5
25	WE	5:49 0.5	12:16 3.4	18:13 0.4	
26	TH	0:39 3.4	6:41 0.6	13:07 3.3	19:04 0.6
27	FR FQ	1:32 3.2	7:37 0.8	13:59 3.1	19:57 0.7
28	SA	2:27 3.1	8:35 0.9	14:54 3	20:53 0.9
29	SU	3:24 3	9:34 1	15:50 2.9	21:53 1
30	MO	4:22 2.9	10:32 1	16:48 2.8	22:53 1
31	TU	5:18 2.9	11:27 1	17:45 2.8	23:48 1

ONEHUNGA

February

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
		AM		PM	
1	SU	3:27 1.1	9:50 3.7	15:58 1.1	22:11 3.7
2	MO	4:20 1	10:39 3.9	16:47 0.9	22:58 3.8
3	TU	5:05 0.8	11:22 4	17:29 0.8	23:40 3.9
4	WE FM	5:46 0.7	11:59 4	18:08 0.7	
5	TH	0:16 3.9	6:22 0.7	12:33 4.1	18:44 0.7
6	FR	0:50 3.9	6:57 0.7	13:05 4.1	19:18 0.7
7	SA	1:21 3.9	7:29 0.7	13:35 4	19:51 0.8
8	SU	1:53 3.9	8:02 0.8	14:07 4	20:25 0.8
9	MO	2:26 3.8	8:36 0.9	14:42 3.9	21:00 0.9
10	TU	3:03 3.7	9:13 1	15:20 3.8	21:39 1
11	WE	3:44 3.6	9:54 1.1	16:03 3.6	22:23 1.1
12	TH LQ	4:32 3.5	10:43 1.3	16:55 3.5	23:15 1.2
13	FR	5:29 3.4	11:44 1.4	17:56 3.5	
14	SA	0:19 1.3	6:37 3.4	12:57 1.4	19:06 3.5
15	SU	1:32 1.2	7:52 3.5	14:14 1.3	20:22 3.6
16	MO	2:45 1.1	9:04 3.7	15:22 1	21:32 3.8
17	TU	3:49 0.8	10:05 4	16:20 0.7	22:33 4
18	WE	4:45 0.5	10:59 4.3	17:13 0.4	23:26 4.2
19	TH NM	5:35 0.3	11:49 4.5	18:01 0.2	
20	FR	0:14 4.4	6:23 0.2	12:36 4.5	18:48 0.2
21	SA	1:01 4.4	7:08 0.1	13:21 4.5	19:33 0.2
22	SU	1:46 4.4	7:54 0.2	14:05 4.4	20:19 0.3
23	MO	:31 4.3	8:39 0.4	14:51 4.2	21:04 0.5
24	TU	3:17 4.1	9:26 0.6	15:37 4	21:52 0.7
25	WE	4:06 3.9	10:16 0.9	16:28 3.8	22:43 1
26	TH FQ	5:00 3.6	11:13 1.2	17:26 3.6	23:41 1.2
27	FR	6:05 3.5	12:19 1.3	18:33 3.4	
28	SA	0:48 1.3	7:16 3.4	13:31 1.4	19:45 3.4

March

		HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
		AM		PM	
1	SU	1:59 1.4	8:25 3.5	14:38 1.3	20:51 3.4
2	MO	3:03 1.3	9:24 3.6	15:34 1.2	21:47 3.6
3	TU	3:57 1.1	10:14 3.8	16:22 1	22:34 3.7
4	WE	4:42 0.9	10:56 3.9	17:04 0.9	23:15 3.9
5	TH	5:21 0.8	11:33 4	17:42 0.7	23:52 4
6	FR FM	5:57 0.7	12:07 4.1	18:17 0.7	
7	SA	0:25 4	6:31 0.6	12:38 4.1	18:51 0.6
8	SU	0:56 4	7:04 0.7	13:09 4.1	19:24 0.7
9	MO	1:28 4	7:37 0.7	13:42 4	19:57 0.7
10	TU	2:02 3.9	8:11 0.8	14:16 3.9	20:33 0.8
11	WE	2:38 3.8	8:48 0.9	14:54 3.8	21:12 0.9
12	TH	3:17 3.7	9:30 1	15:37 3.7	21:55 1
13	FR	4:04 3.6	10:18 1.2	16:27 3.6	22:47 1.2
14	SA LQ	5:00 3.5	11:18 1.3	17:28 3.5	23:50 1.3
15	SU	6:08 3.5	12:31 1.3	18:40 3.5	
16	MO	1:05 1.2	7:23 3.6	13:48 1.2	19:58 3.6
17	TU	2:20 1.1	8:36 3.8	14:57 1	21:09 3.8
18	WE	3:25 0.8	9:40 4	15:57 0.7	22:11 4
19	TH	4:22 0.5	10:36 4.3	16:50 0.4	23:05 4.3
20	FR NM	5:14 0.3	11:27 4.4	17:39 0.2	23:54 4.4
21	SA	6:02 0.2	12:14 4.5	18:26 0.1	
22	SU	0:40 4.5	6:48 0.1	12:59 4.5	19:11 0.2
23	MO	1:25 4.4	7:32 0.2	13:44 4.4	19:55 0.3
24	TU	2:09 4.3	8:17 0.4	14:27 4.2	20:40 0.5
25	WE	2:52 4.1	9:03 0.7	15:12 3.9	21:25 0.8
26	TH	3:39 3.8	9:51 1	16:00 3.7	22:13 1
27	FR FQ	4:30 3.6	10:46 1.2	16:56 3.5	23:09 1.3
28	SA	5:32 3.5	11:50 1.4	18:02 3.3	
29	SU	0:15 1.4	6:42 3.4	13:00 1.5	19:13 3.3
30	MO	1:27 1.5	7:50 3.4	14:06 1.4	20:19 3.4
31	TU	2:32 1.4	8:50 3.5	15:03 1.3	21:16 3.5

TIME DIFFERENCES - REFERENCED FROM AUCKLAND

	HIGHS	LOWS		HIGHS	LOWS
NORTH ISLAND			SOUTH ISLAND		
Gisborne	- 01.32	- 01.20	Bluff	- 05.37	- 05.23
Marsden Point	+ 00.07	+ 00.15	Dunedin	- 03.35	- 02.46
Napier	- 01.50	- 01.36	Lyttelton	- 02.50	- 02.38
Port Taranaki	+ 02.24	+ 02.38	Nelson	+ 02.21	+ 02.23
Tauranga	- 00.14	- 00.08	Timaru	+ 04.00	- 03.51
Wellington	- 02.28	- 02.13	Westport	+ 03.09	+ 03.22
Whangarei	+ 00.28	+ 00.29			

MOON PHASES

FQ: FIRST QUARTER
LQ: LAST QUARTER
FM: FULL MOON
NM: NEW MOON



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